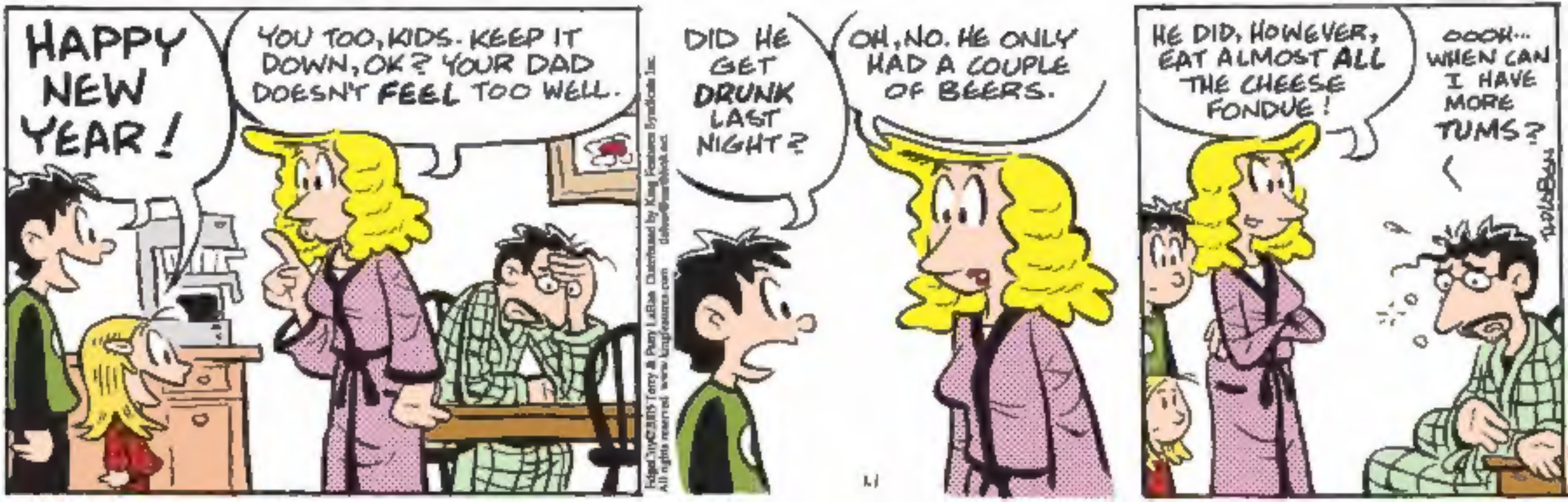
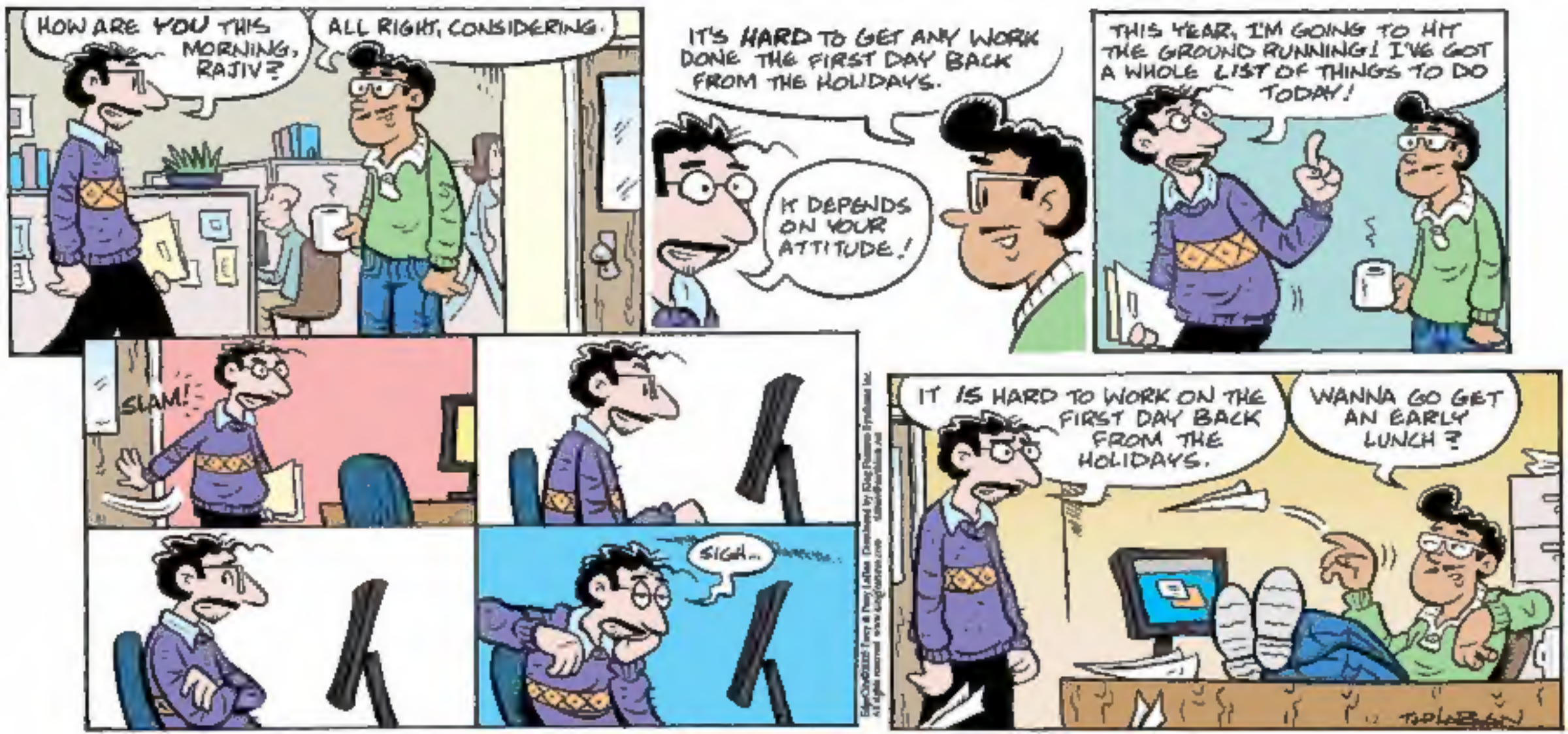
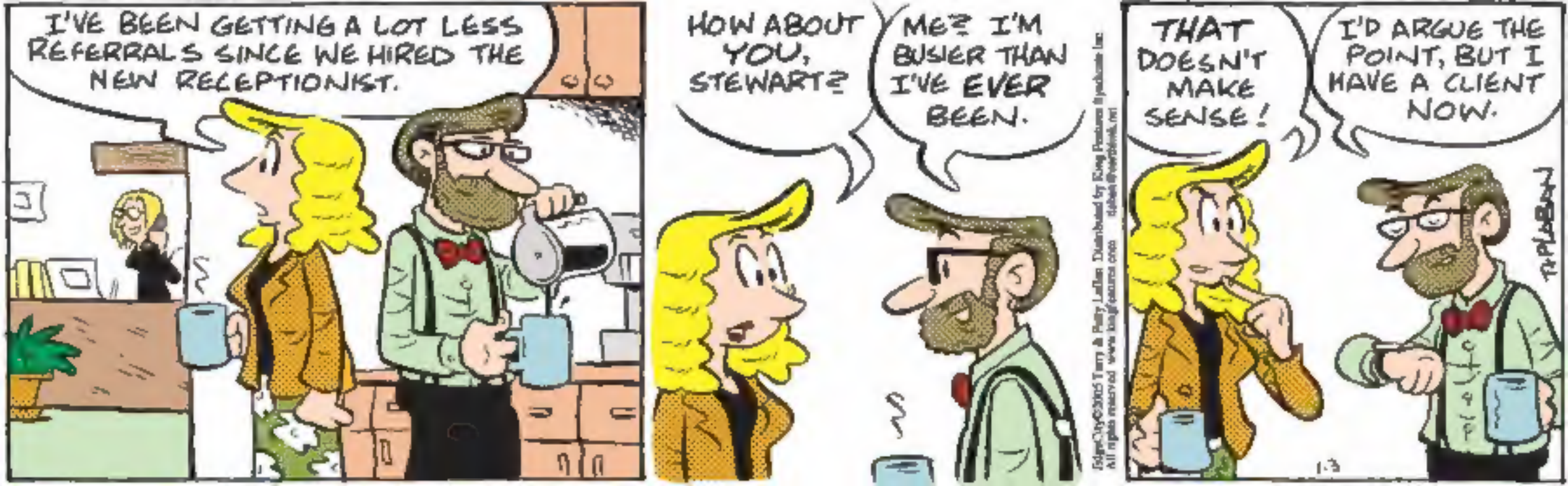
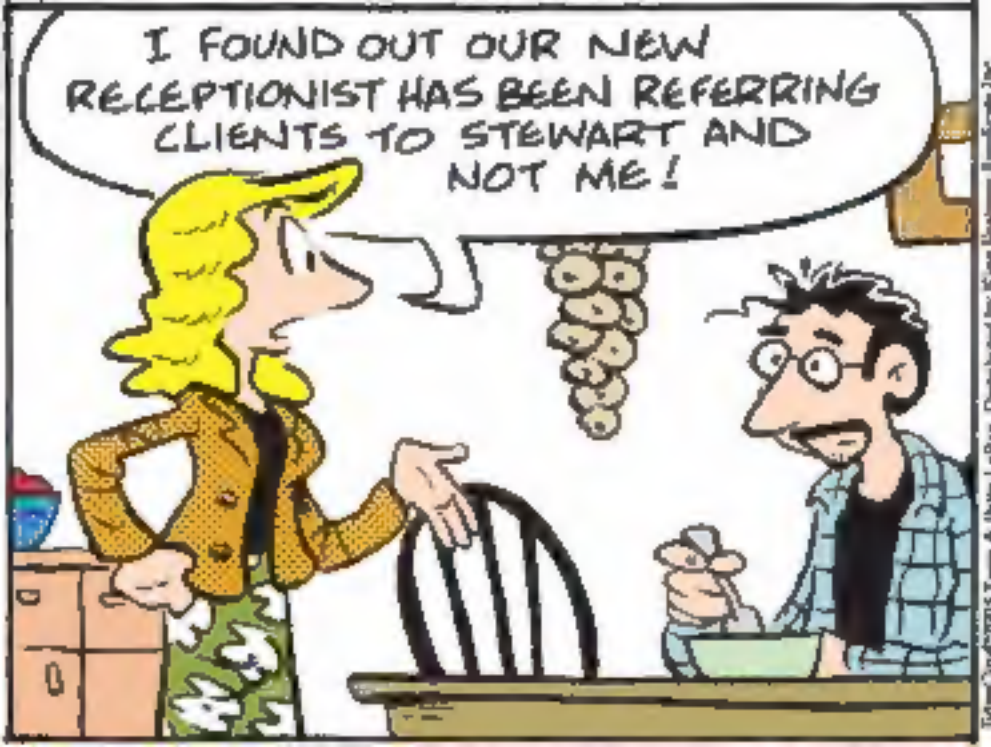

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
YOU TOO, KIDS. KEEP IT DOWN, OK? YOUR DAD DOESN'T FEEL TOO WELL.
DID HE GET DRUNK LAST NIGHT?
OH, NO. HE ONLY HAD A COUPLE OF BEERS.
HE DID, HOWEVER, EAT ALMOST ALL THE CHEESE FONDUE!
OOOH... WHEN CAN I HAVE MORE TUMS?


HOW ARE YOU THIS MORNING, RAJIV?
ALL RIGHT, CONSIDERING.
IT'S HARD TO GET ANY WORK DONE THE FIRST DAY BACK FROM THE HOLIDAYS.
IT DEPENDS ON YOUR ATTITUDE!
THIS YEAR, I'M GOING TO HIT THE GROUND RUNNING! I'VE GOT A WHOLE LIST OF THINGS TO DO TODAY!
SLAM!
SIGH...
IT IS HARD TO WORK ON THE FIRST DAY BACK FROM THE HOLIDAYS.
WANNA GO GET AN EARLY LUNCH?


I'VE BEEN GETTING A LOT LESS REFERRALS SINCE WE HIRED THE NEW RECEPTIONIST.
HOW ABOUT YOU, STEWART?
ME? I'M BUSIER THAN I'VE EVER BEEN.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
I'D ARGUE THE POINT, BUT I HAVE A CLIENT NOW.
TRIBUNE



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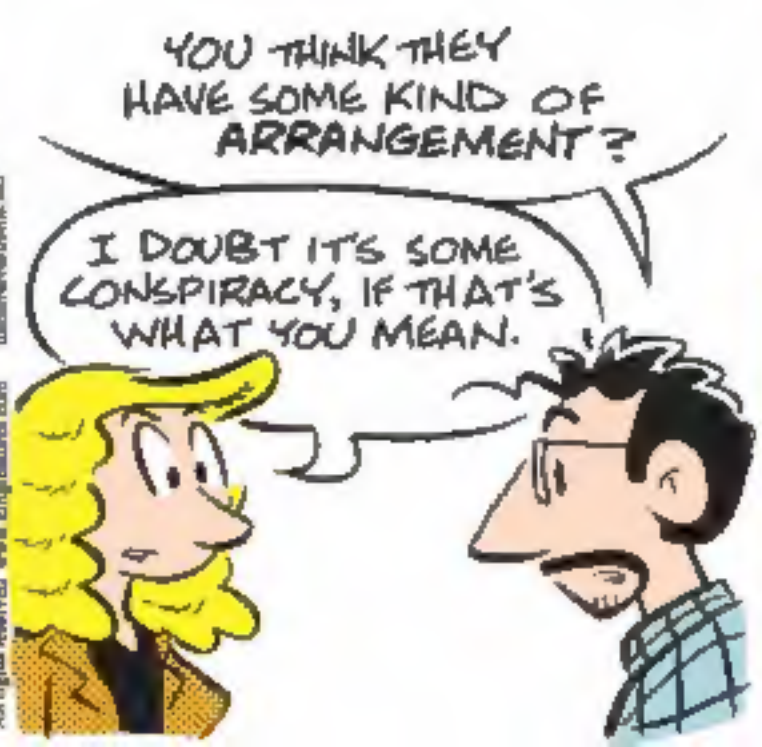

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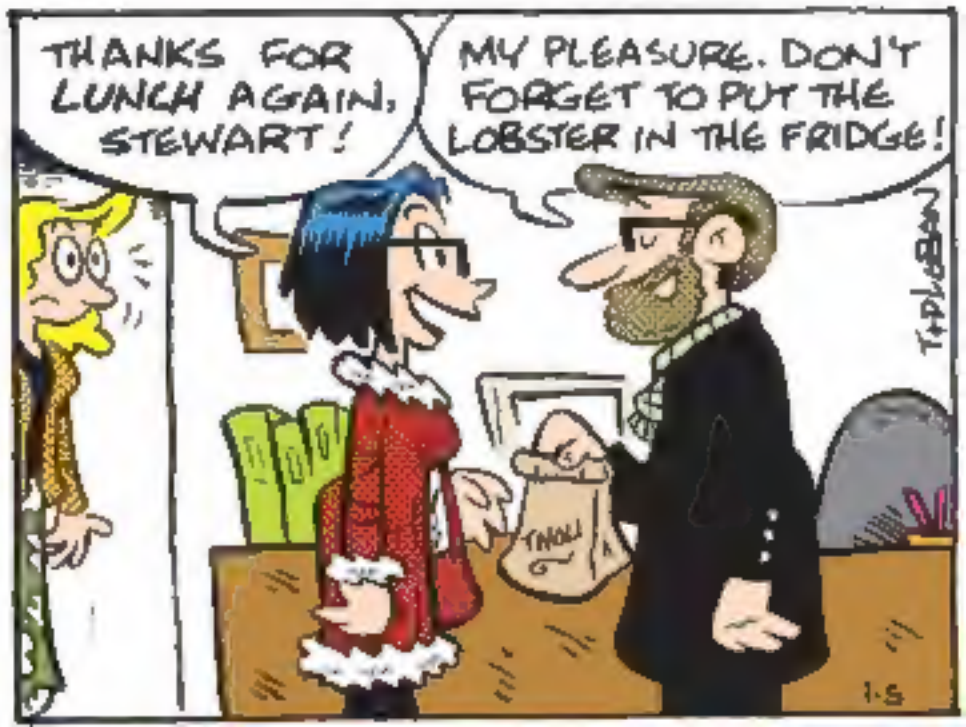
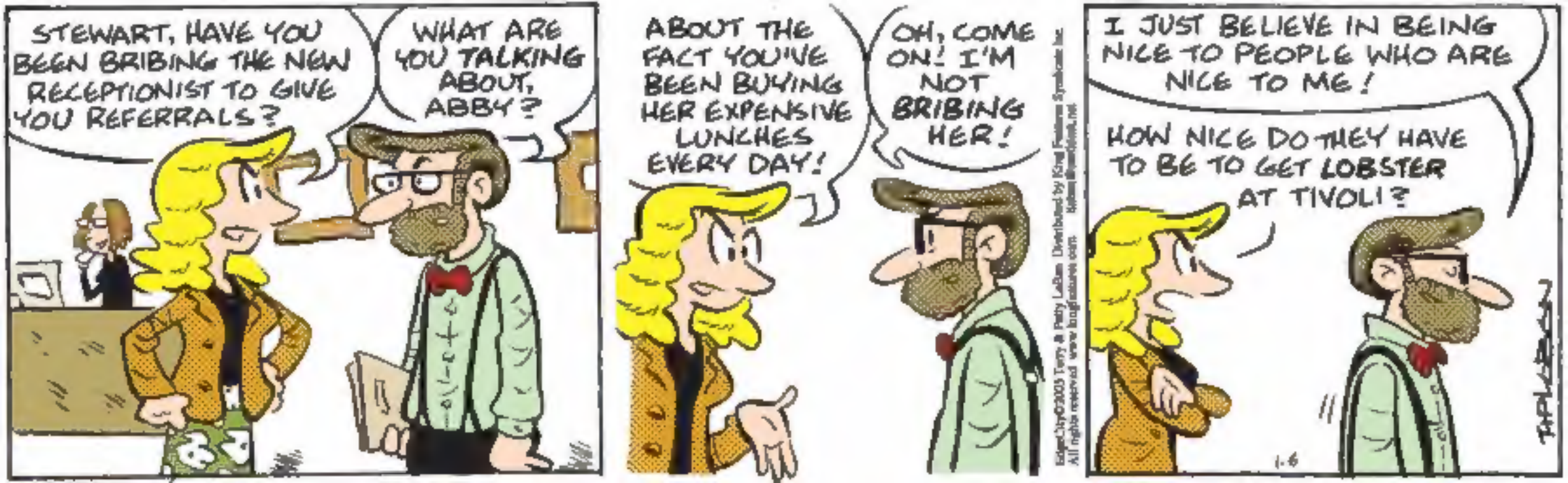
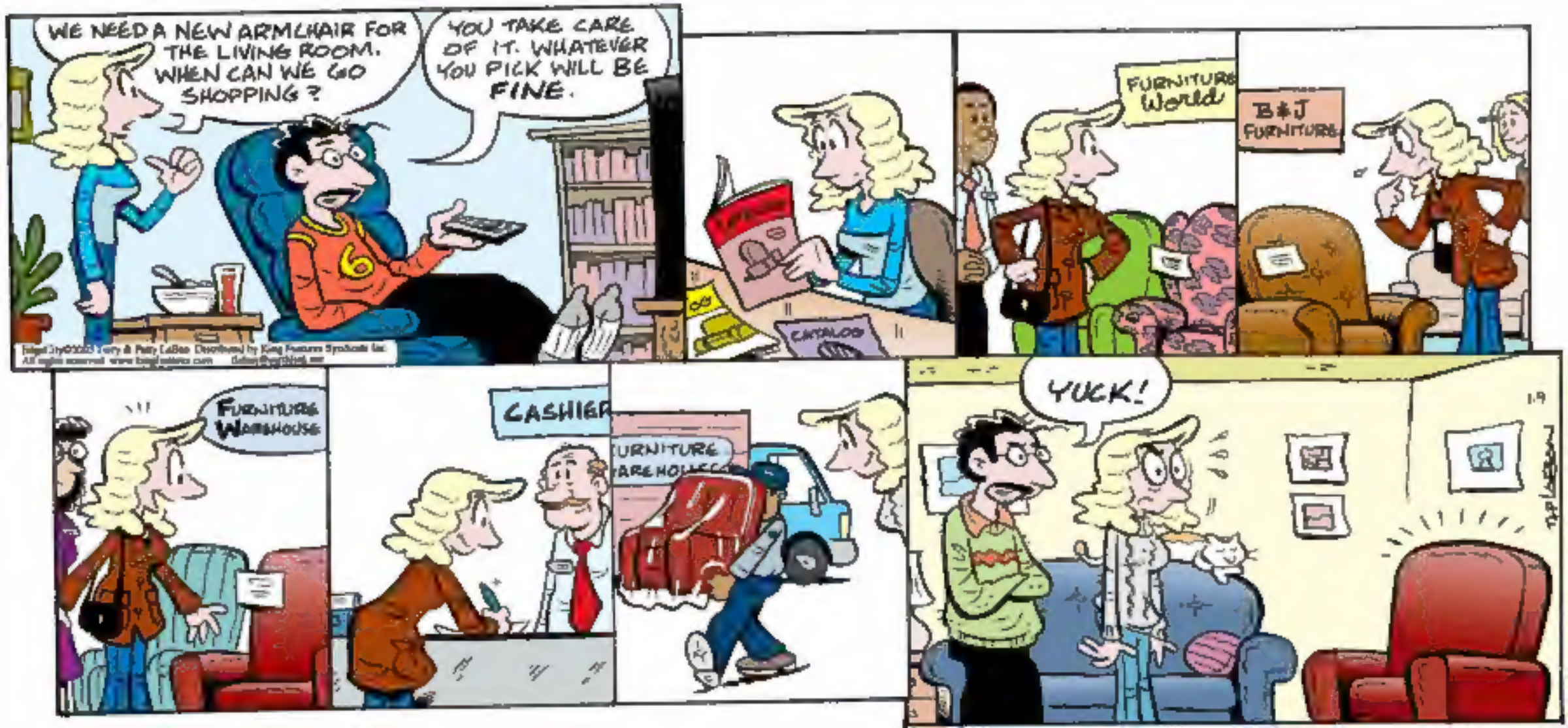
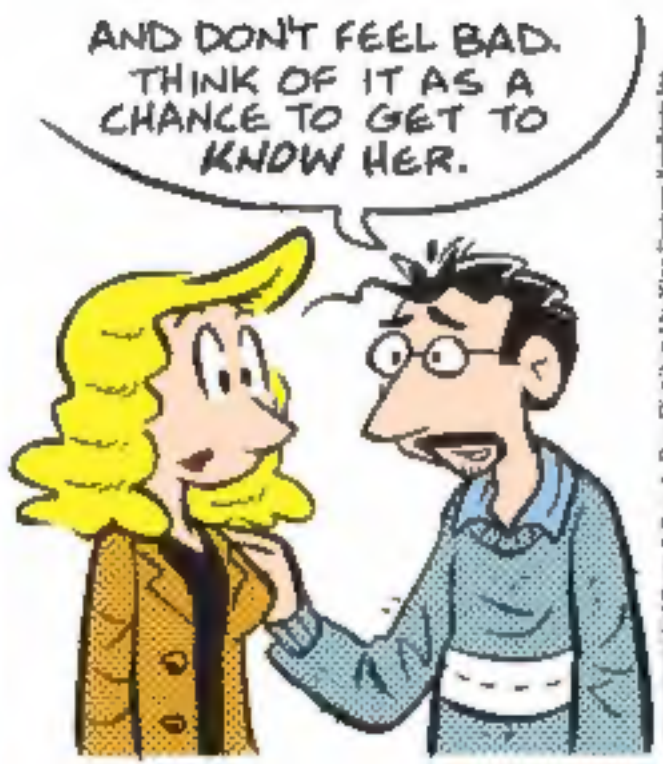



STEWART, HAVE YOU BEEN BRIBING THE NEW RECEPTIONIST TO GIVE YOU REFERRALS?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, ABBY?
ABOUT THE FACT YOU'VE BEEN BUYING HER EXPENSIVE LUNCHES EVERY DAY!
OH, COME ON! I'M NOT BRIBING HER!
I JUST BELIEVE IN BEING NICE TO PEOPLE WHO ARE NICE TO ME!
HOW NICE DO THEY HAVE TO BE TO GET LOBSTER AT TIVOLI?
1-6

I FOUND OUT WHY STEWART'S GETTING SO MANY REFERRALS, JANICE! HE'S BEEN BUYING THE NEW RECEPTIONIST FANCY LUNCHES!
YOU SOUND UPSET ABOUT THAT, ABBY.
DO YOU THINK IT'S OK TO BASICALLY BRIBE SOMEONE TO GET WORK?
UM...
THANKS FOR THE GIFT BASKET, JANICE! I LOVE BATH PRODUCTS!

WELL, LEN-- I FOUND OUT WHY I HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING REFERRALS FROM THE NEW RECEPTIONIST.
OH, YEAH?
EVERYONE ELSE HAS BEEN TAKING HER TO LUNCH AND BUYING HER GIFTS!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'D BETTER PONY UP.
I DON'T WANT TO! IT'D MAKE ME FEEL COMPROMISED AND DIRTY!
AS OPPOSED TO VIRTUOUS AND POOR?
I TAKE YOUR POINT...
1-8


WE NEED A NEW ARMCHAIR FOR THE LIVING ROOM. WHEN CAN WE GO SHOPPING?
YOU TAKE CARE OF IT. WHATEVER YOU PICK WILL BE FINE.
CATALOG
FURNITURE World
B&J FURNITURE
FURNITURE WAREHOUSE
CASHIER
YUCK!



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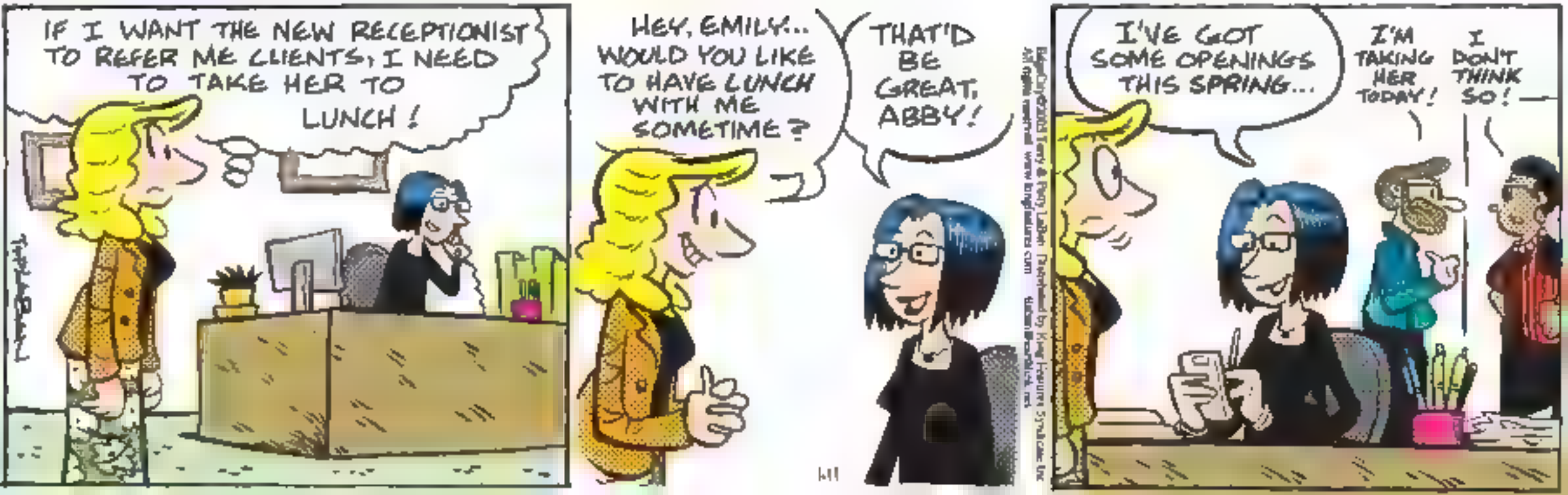
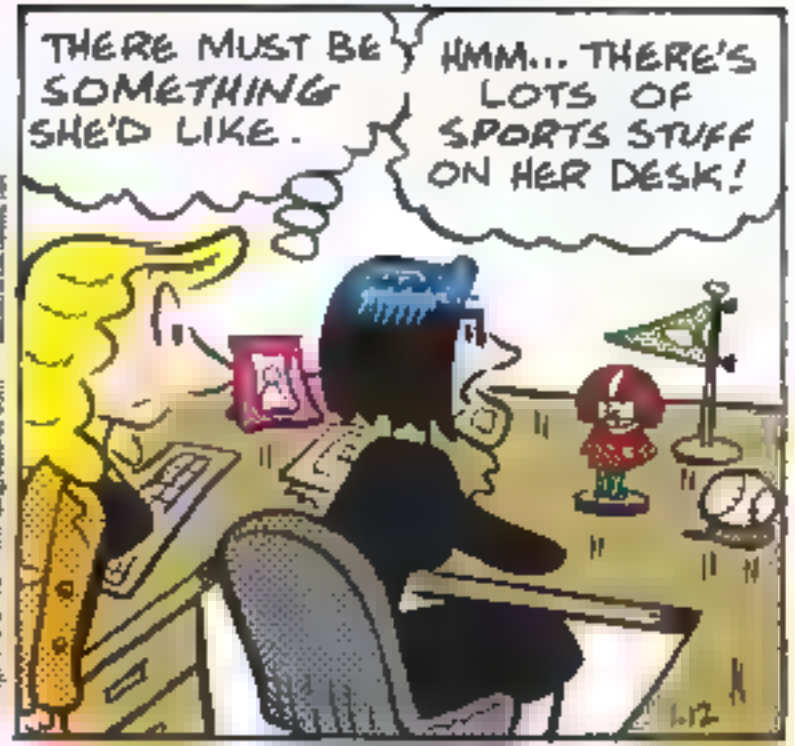
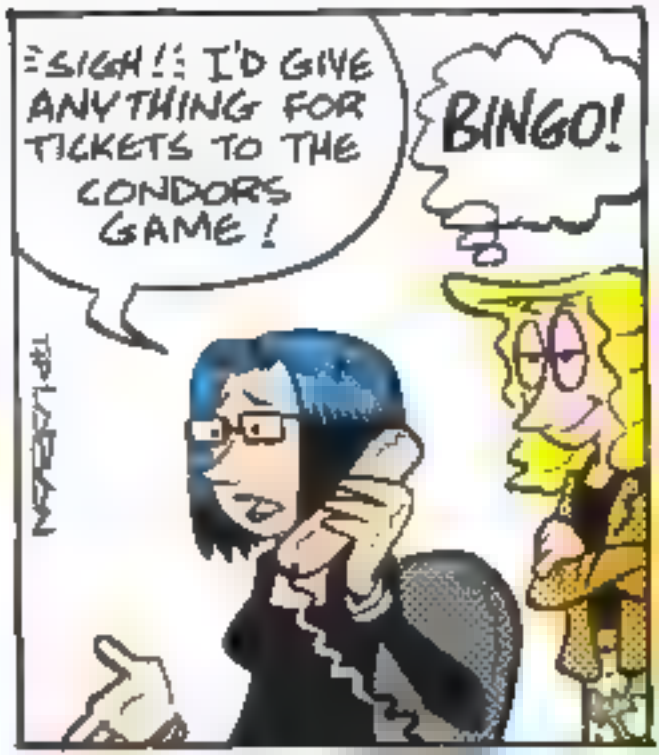
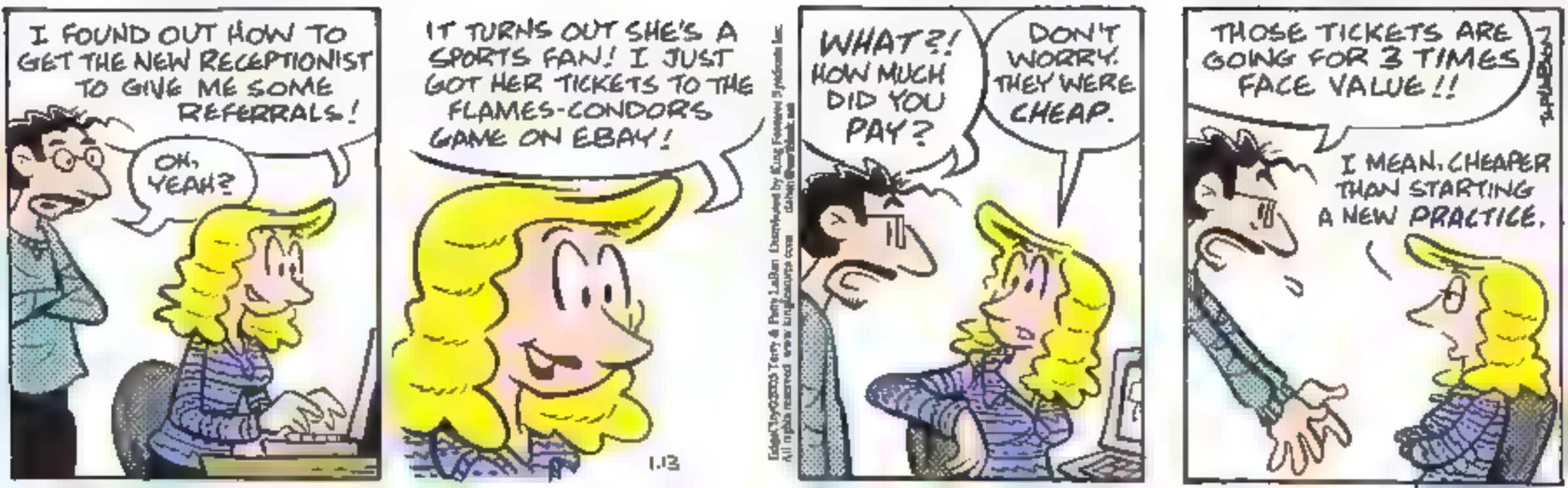
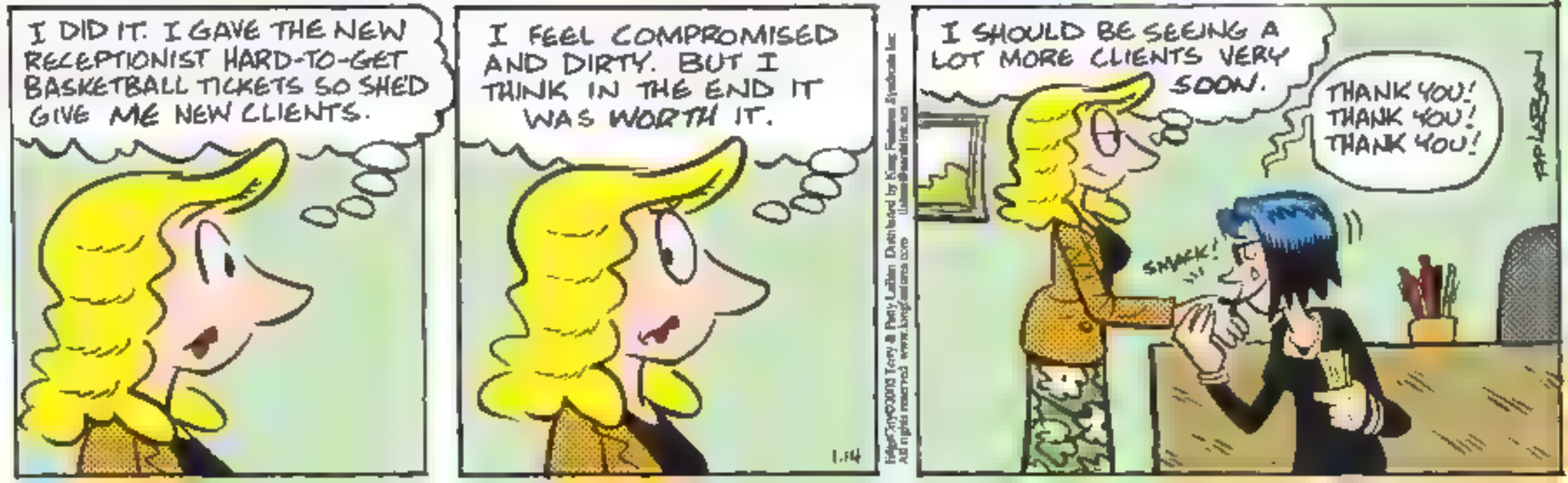

IF I WANT THE NEW RECEPTIONIST TO REFER ME CLIENTS, I NEED TO TAKE HER TO LUNCH!
HEY, EMILY... WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE LUNCH WITH ME SOMETIME?
THAT'D BE GREAT, ABBY!
I'VE GOT SOME OPENINGS THIS SPRING...
I'M TAKING HER TODAY!
I DON'T THINK SO!

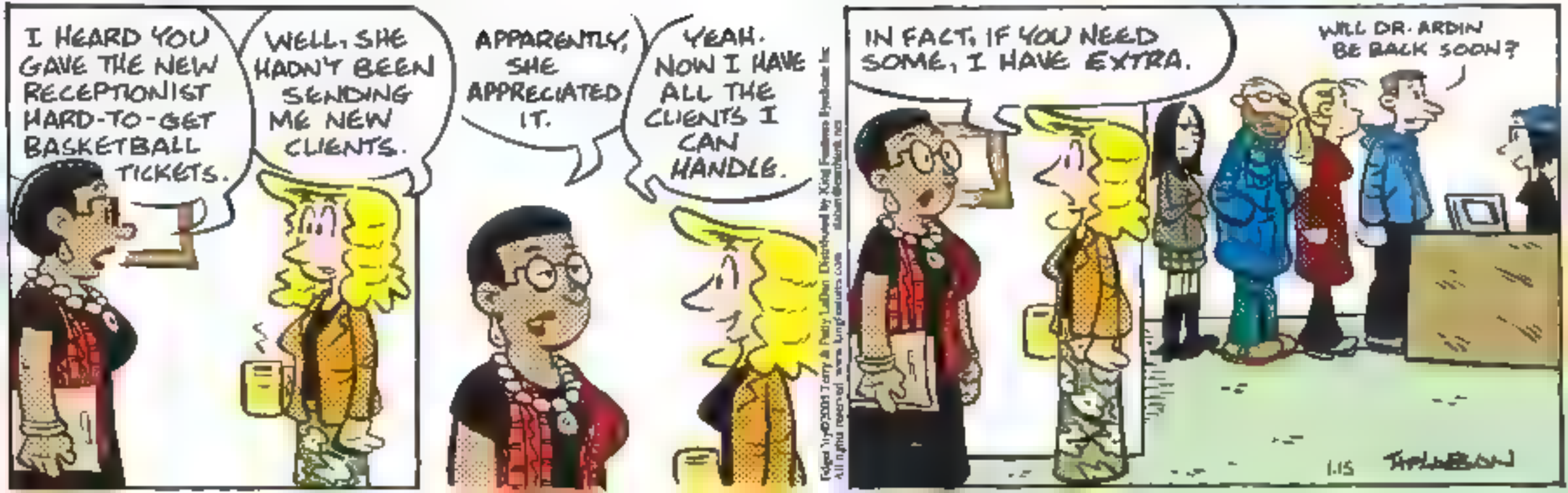
I NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO WIN OVER THE NEW RECEPTIONIST SO SHE'LL GIVE ME SOME NEW CLIENTS!

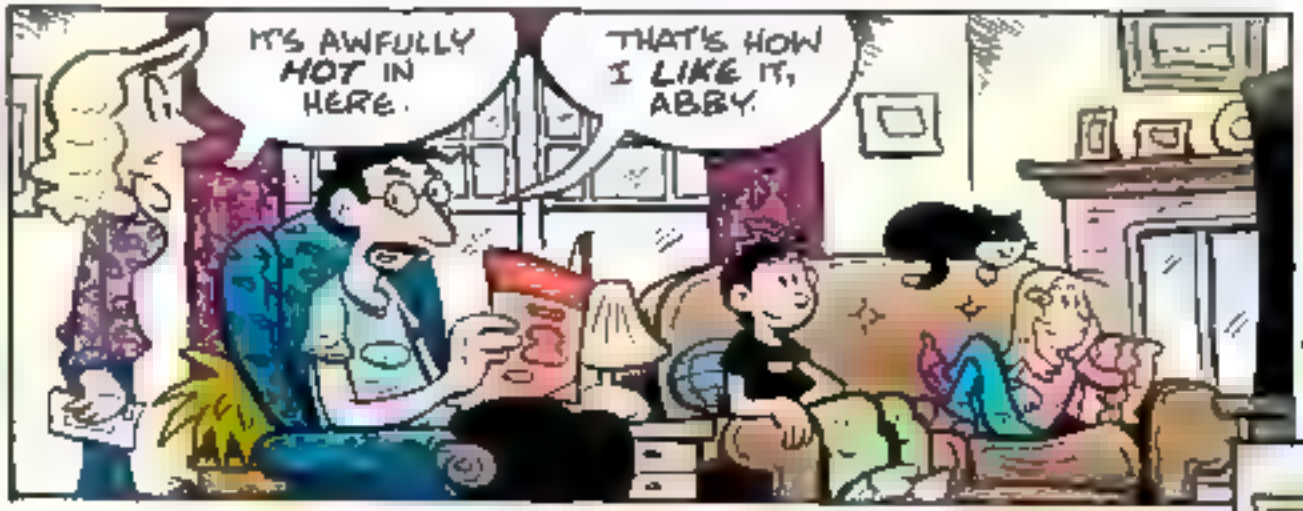

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING SHE'D LIKE.
HMM... THERE'S LOTS OF SPORTS STUFF ON HER DESK!

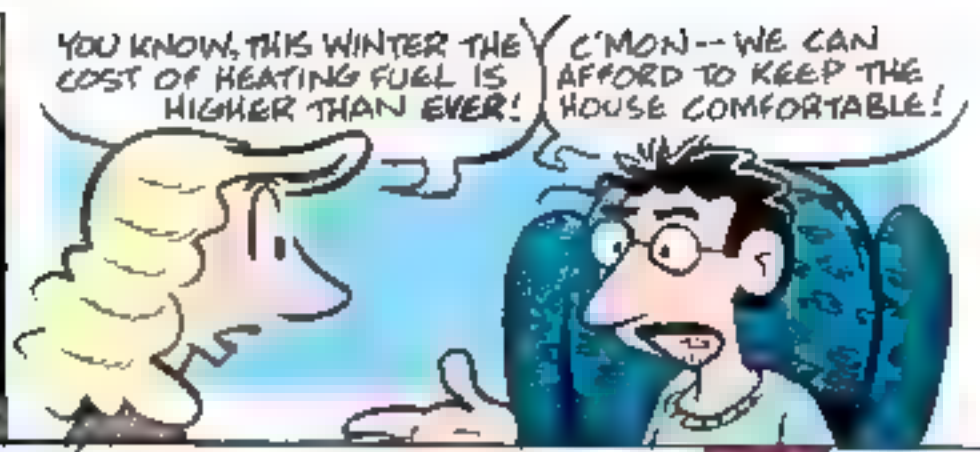

SIGH!! I'D GIVE ANYTHING FOR TICKETS TO THE CONDORS GAME!
BINGO!

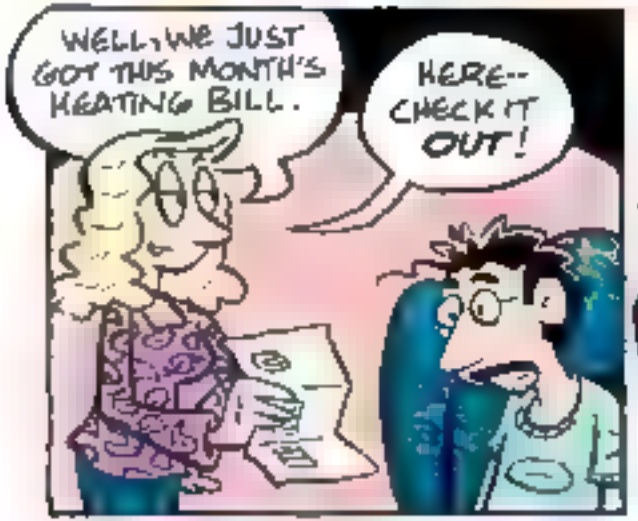

I FOUND OUT HOW TO GET THE NEW RECEPTIONIST TO GIVE ME SOME REFERRALS!
OH, YEAH?
IT TURNS OUT SHE'S A SPORTS FAN! I JUST GOT HER TICKETS TO THE FLAMES-CONDORS GAME ON EBAY!
1.13
WHAT?! HOW MUCH DID YOU PAY?
DON'T WORRY. THEY WERE CHEAP.
THOSE TICKETS ARE GOING FOR 3 TIMES FACE VALUE!!
I MEAN, CHEAPER THAN STARTING A NEW PRACTICE.


I DID IT. I GAVE THE NEW RECEPTIONIST HARD-TO-GET BASKETBALL TICKETS SO SHE'D GIVE ME NEW CLIENTS.
I FEEL COMPROMISED AND DIRTY. BUT I THINK IN THE END IT WAS WORTH IT.
1-14
I SHOULD BE SEEING A LOT MORE CLIENTS VERY SOON.
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
SMACK!

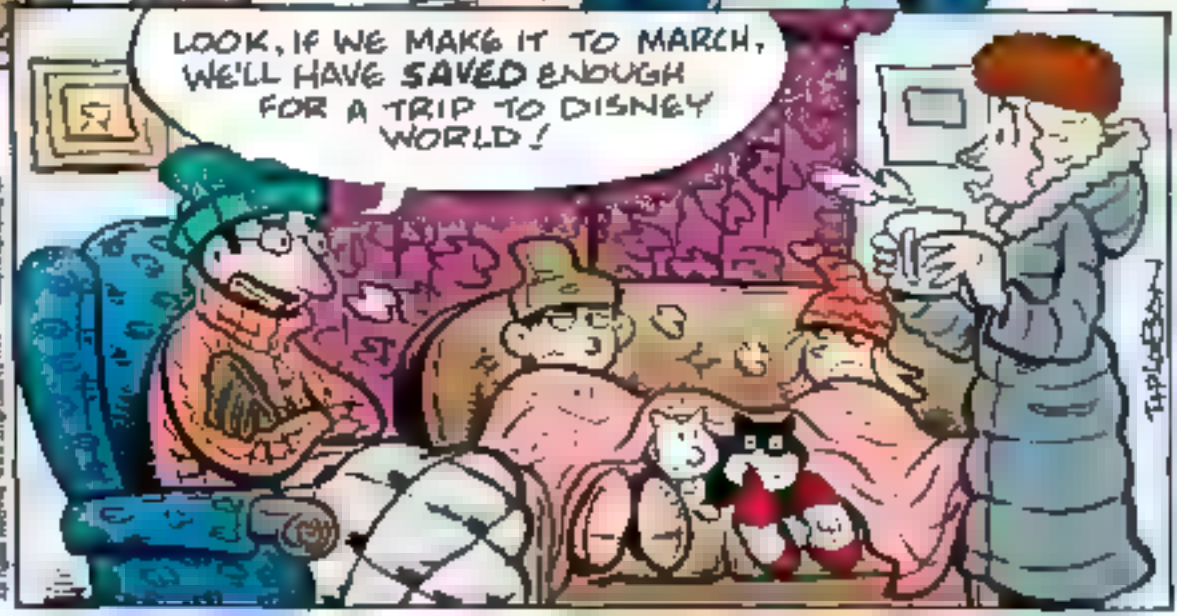

I HEARD YOU GAVE THE NEW RECEPTIONIST HARD-TO-GET BASKETBALL TICKETS.
WELL, SHE HADN'T BEEN SENDING ME NEW CLIENTS.
APPARENTLY, SHE APPRECIATED IT.
YEAH. NOW I HAVE ALL THE CLIENTS I CAN HANDLE.
IN FACT, IF YOU NEED SOME, I HAVE EXTRA.
WILL DR. ARDIN BE BACK SOON?
1.15

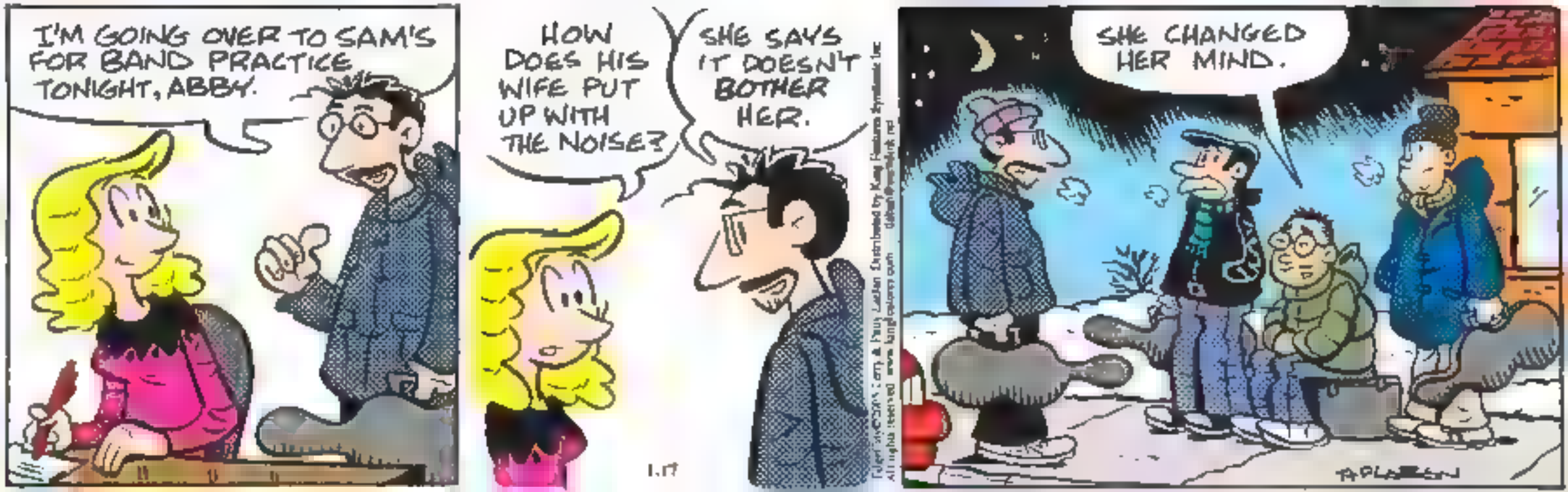

IT'S AWFULLY HOT IN HERE.
THAT'S HOW I LIKE IT, ABBY.

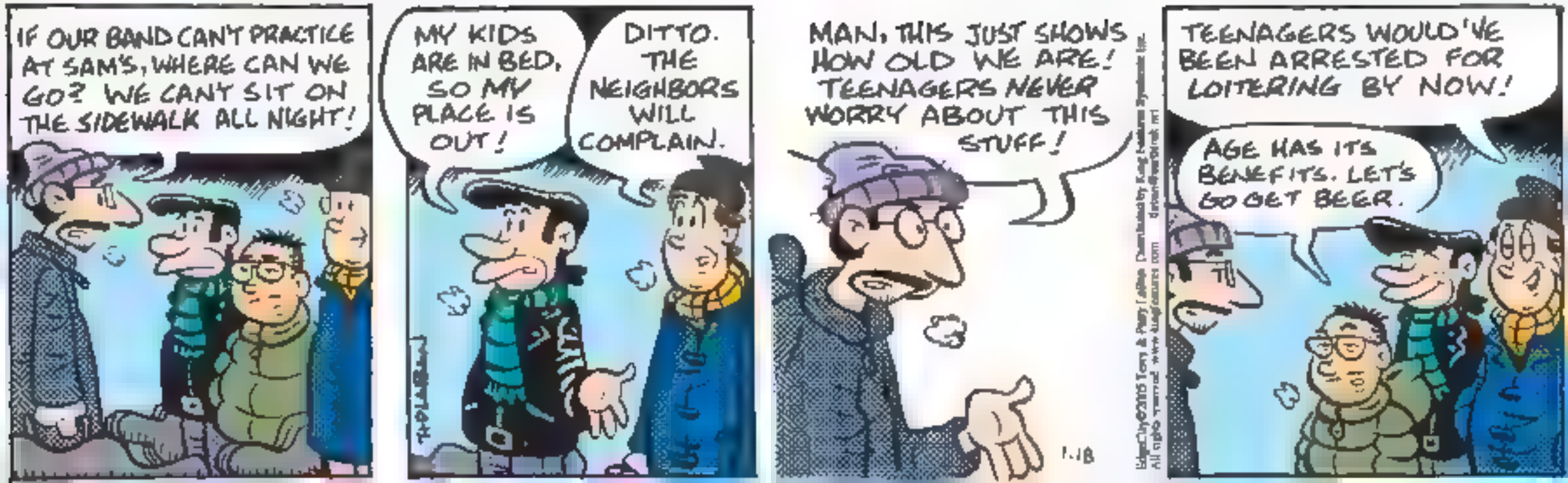

YOU KNOW, THIS WINTER THE COST OF HEATING FUEL IS HIGHER THAN EVER!
C'MON -- WE CAN AFFORD TO KEEP THE HOUSE COMFORTABLE!


WELL, WE JUST GOT THIS MONTH'S HEATING BILL.
HERE-- CHECK IT OUT!

EEP!


LOOK, IF WE MAKE IT TO MARCH, WE'LL HAVE SAVED ENOUGH FOR A TRIP TO DISNEY WORLD!


I'M GOING OVER TO SAM'S FOR BAND PRACTICE TONIGHT, ABBY.
HOW DOES HIS WIFE PUT UP WITH THE NOISE?
SHE SAYS IT DOESN'T BOTHER HER.
SHE CHANGED HER MIND.


IF OUR BAND CAN'T PRACTICE AT SAM'S, WHERE CAN WE GO? WE CAN'T SIT ON THE SIDEWALK ALL NIGHT!
MY KIDS ARE IN BED, SO MY PLACE IS OUT!
DITTO. THE NEIGHBORS WILL COMPLAIN.
MAN, THIS JUST SHOWS HOW OLD WE ARE! TEENAGERS NEVER WORRY ABOUT THIS STUFF!
TEENAGERS WOULD'VE BEEN ARRESTED FOR LOITERING BY NOW!
AGE HAS ITS BENEFITS. LET'S GO GET BEER.

IF WE WANT TO PRACTICE WITHOUT BOTHERING ANYBODY, MAYBE WE SHOULD GO TO MY OFFICE!
IT'S IN A STRIP MALL BY THE HIGHWAY. NO ONE WILL HEAR US EXCEPT MAYBE THE CLEANING LADY.
ANY REQUESTS?
TIP LABAN 1.19
WILDLIFE CRISIS

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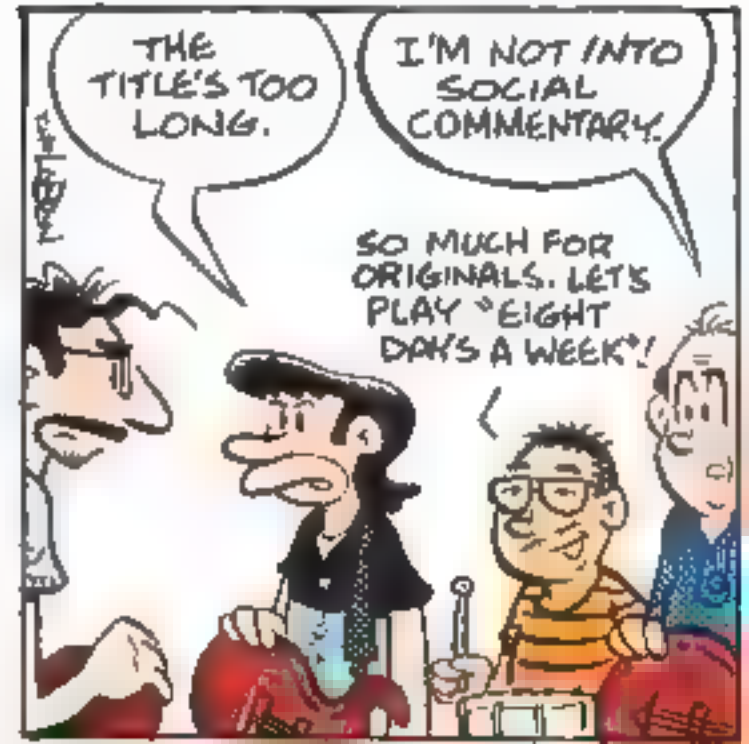

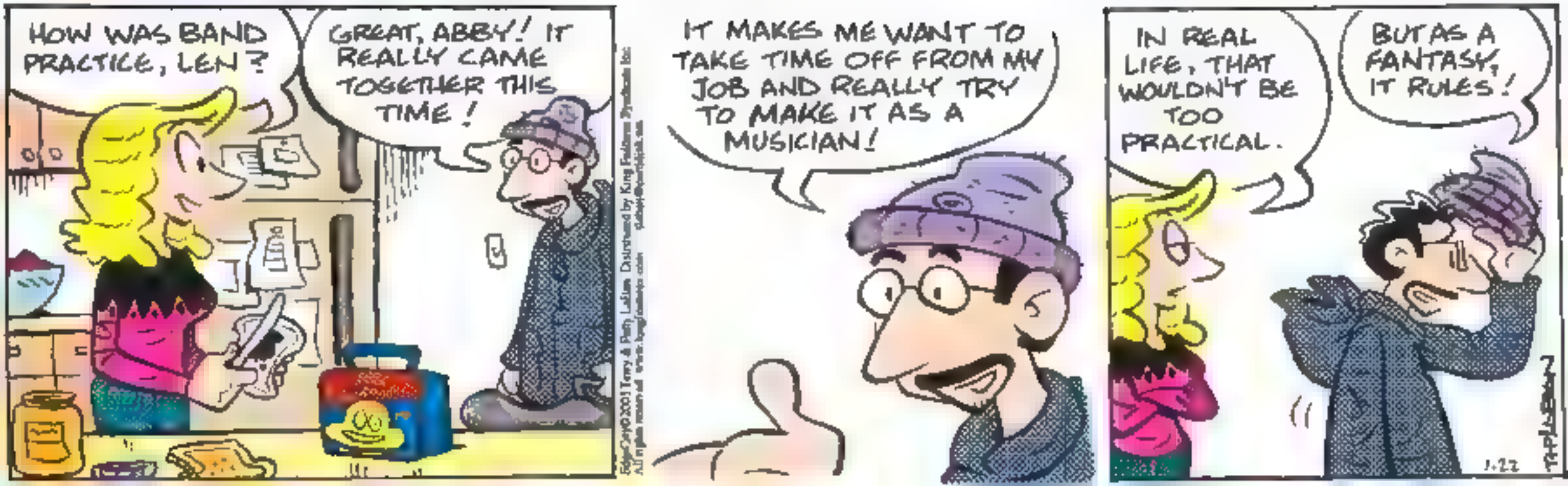
HOW WAS BAND PRACTICE, LEN?
GREAT, ABBY! IT REALLY CAME TOGETHER THIS TIME!
IT MAKES ME WANT TO TAKE TIME OFF FROM MY JOB AND REALLY TRY TO MAKE IT AS A MUSICIAN!
IN REAL LIFE, THAT WOULDN'T BE TOO PRACTICAL.
BUT AS A FANTASY, IT RULES!

GAAH!
POP!
I THINK THOSE IPOD ADS ARE AIMED AT A MORE FLEXIBLE DEMOGRAPHIC.
JUST GET ME THE HEATING PAD, OK?

1.24

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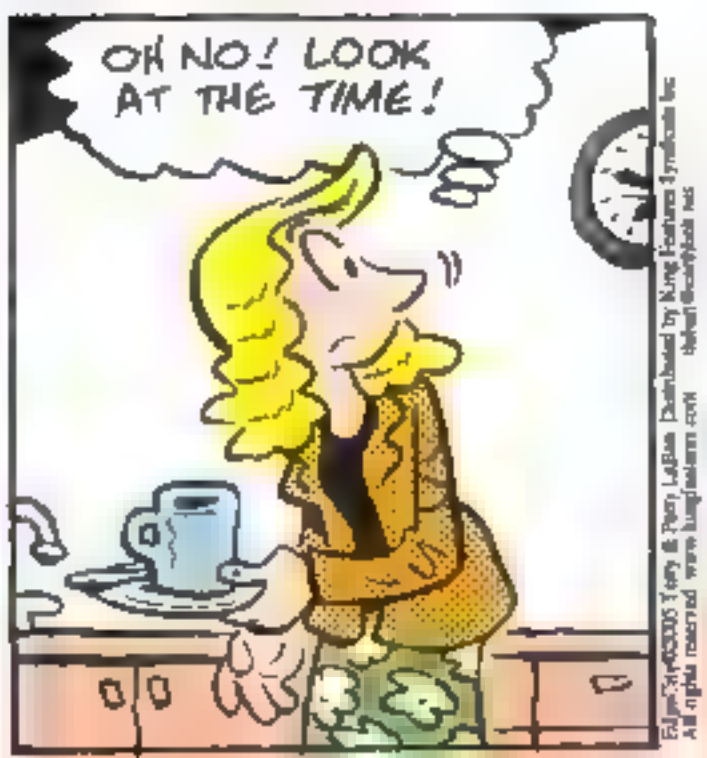
ABBY LEFT HER DIRTY DISHES IN THE SINK AGAIN THIS MORNING!
WELL, I'M NOT CLEANING THEM THIS TIME. SHE CAN DEAL WITH IT HERSELF WHEN SHE GETS HOME!
!

ABBY, YOU'VE BEEN LEAVING DIRTY DISHES IN THE SINK A LOT LATELY!
SORRY, LEN. I'LL MAKE SURE TO DO THEM BEFORE I GO TODAY.

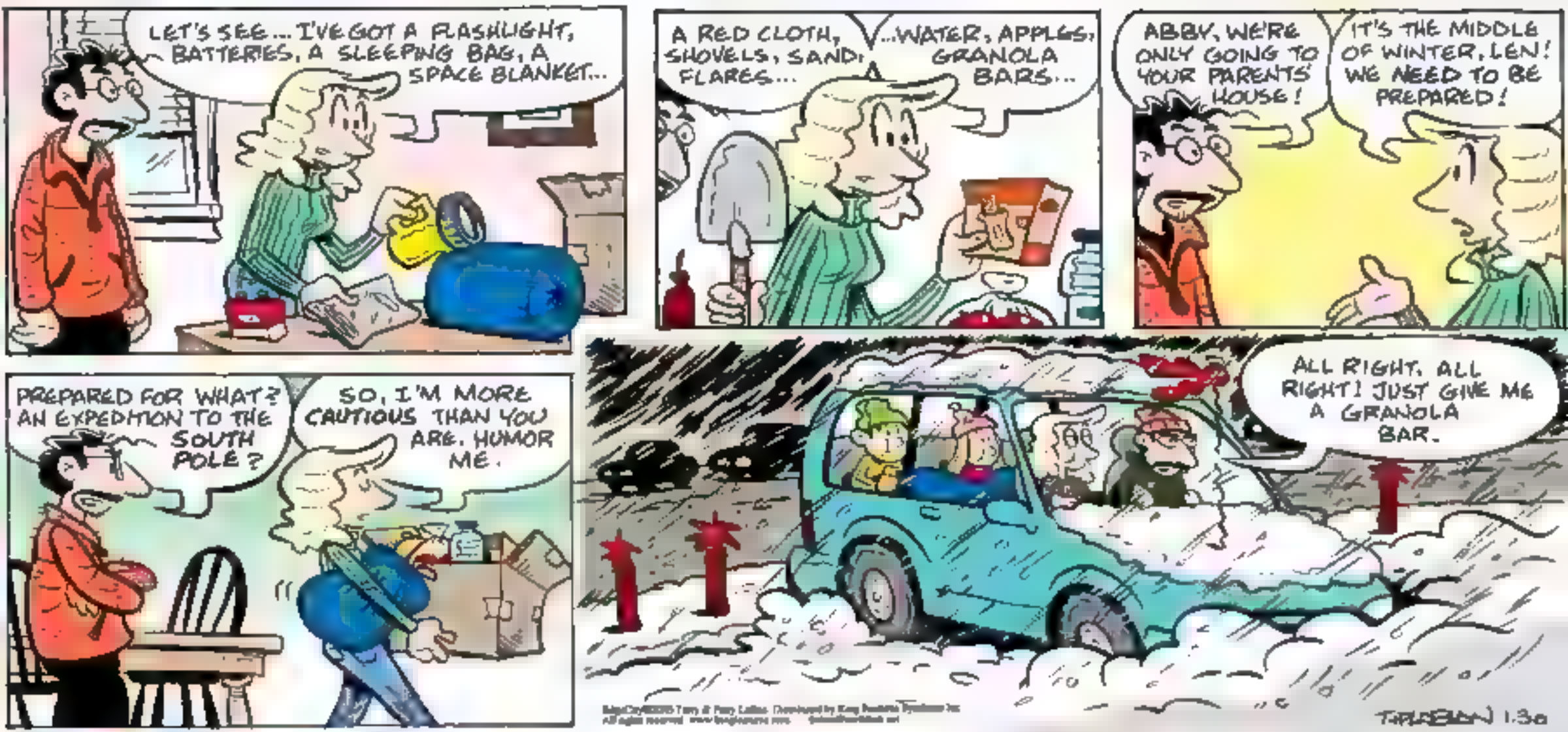

OH NO! LOOK AT THE TIME!

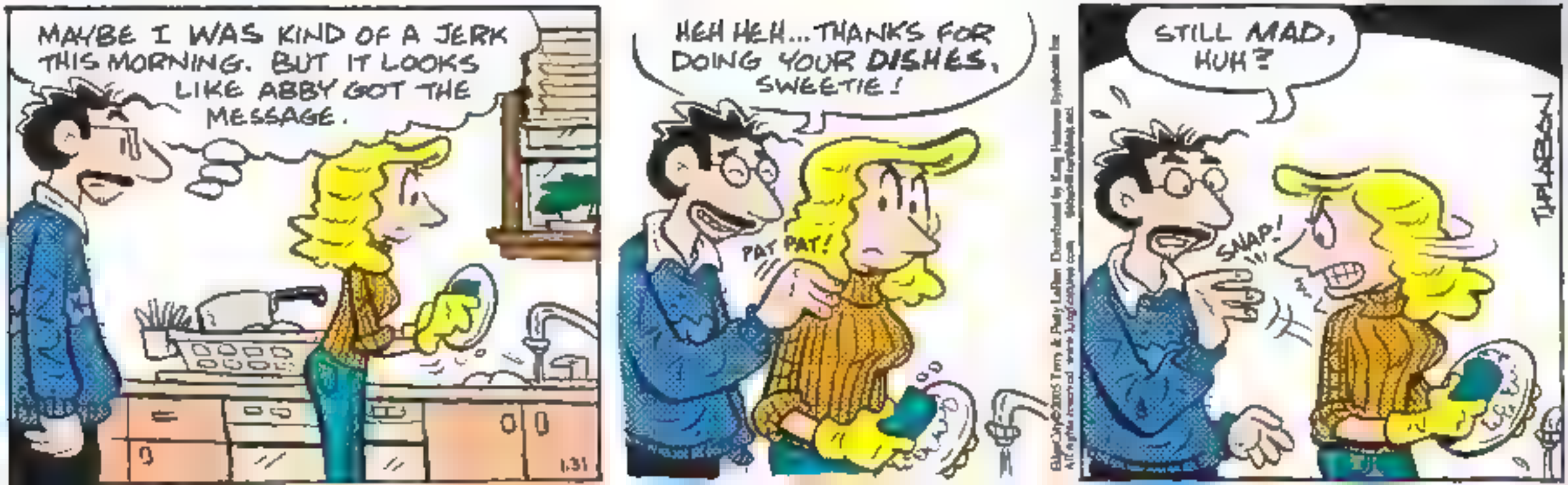
1.26
!

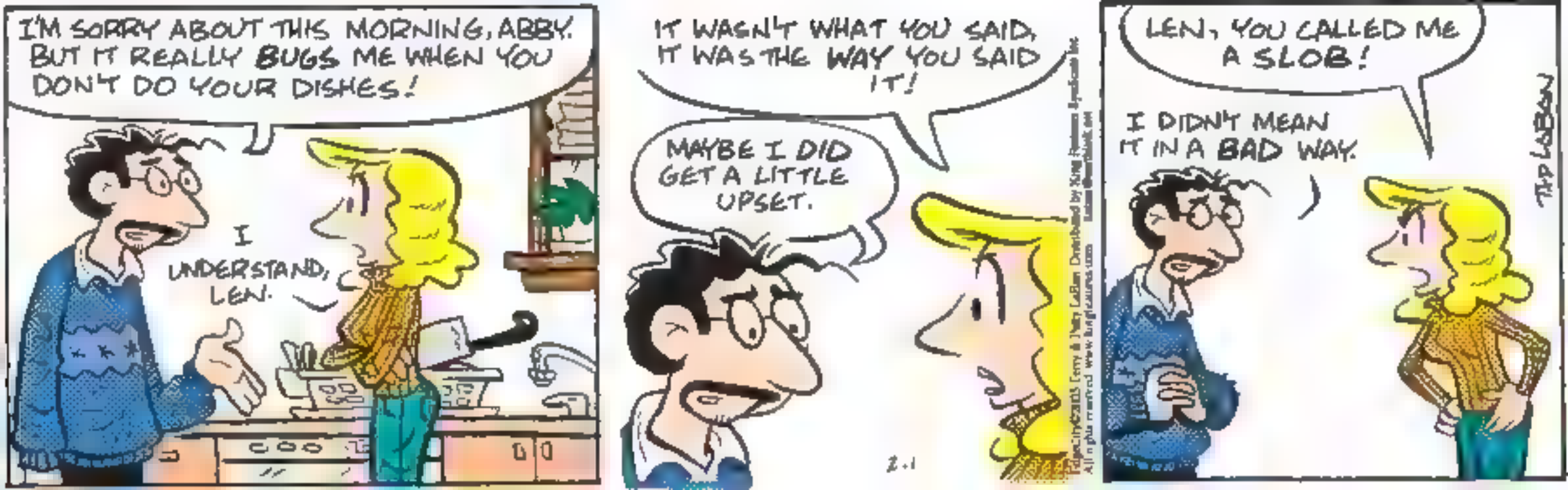
OH, MAN!
ABBY, YOU LEFT YOUR DIRTY DISHES IN THE SINK AGAIN!
I'M SORRY, LEN. I'M RUNNING LATE TODAY!
YOU SAY THAT EVERY DAY.
LOOK, JUST LEAVE THEM! I'LL DO THEM WHEN I GET HOME.
YOU SAY THAT EVERY DAY, TOO!
DON'T YELL.
1.27

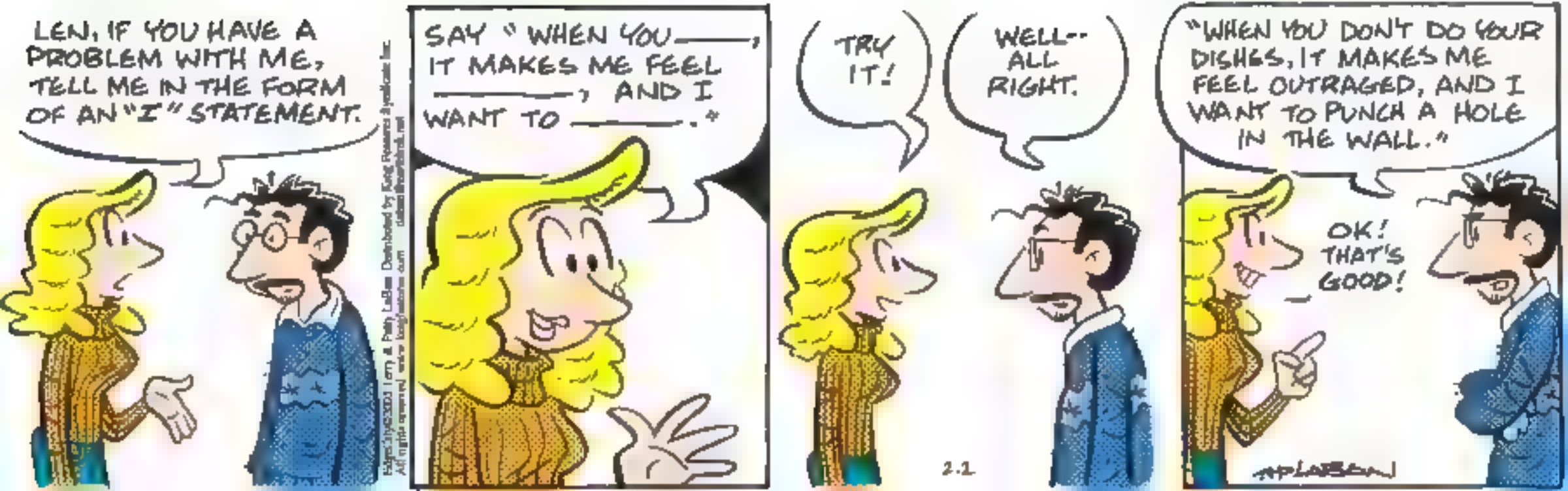
ABBY, YOU'VE BEEN LEAVING YOUR DISHES IN THE SINK EVERY DAY!
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS SUCH A BIG PROBLEM!
WELL, WHAT DID YOU THINK? THAT THEY MAGICALLY WASHED THEMSELVES?
NO-- THAT THEY WERE WASHED BY A KIND, GENEROUS HUSBAND WHO UNDERSTANDS HOW STRESSED MY LIFE IS!
WELL, YOU WERE WRONG!
1.28

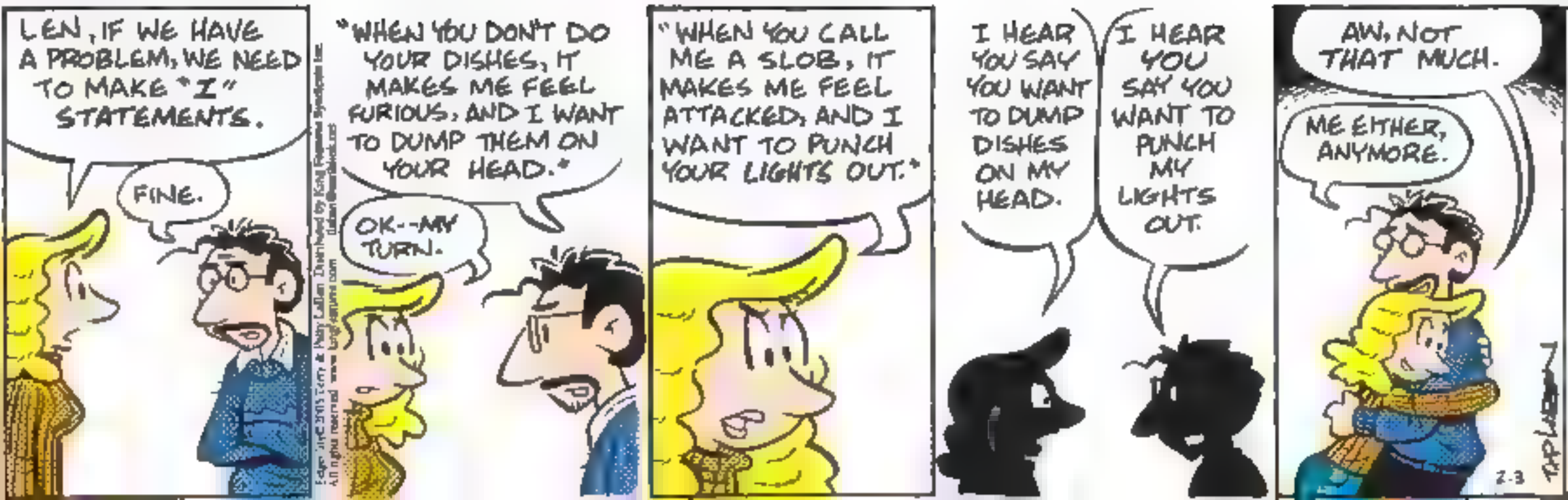
ABBY, YOU'VE GOTTA STOP LEAVING YOUR DIRTY DISHES IN THE SINK!
I'M BUSY, LEN! THEY CAN WAIT!
HEY, I'M BUSY, TOO! BUT AT LEAST I'M NOT A SLOB!
1-29
T. HABAN

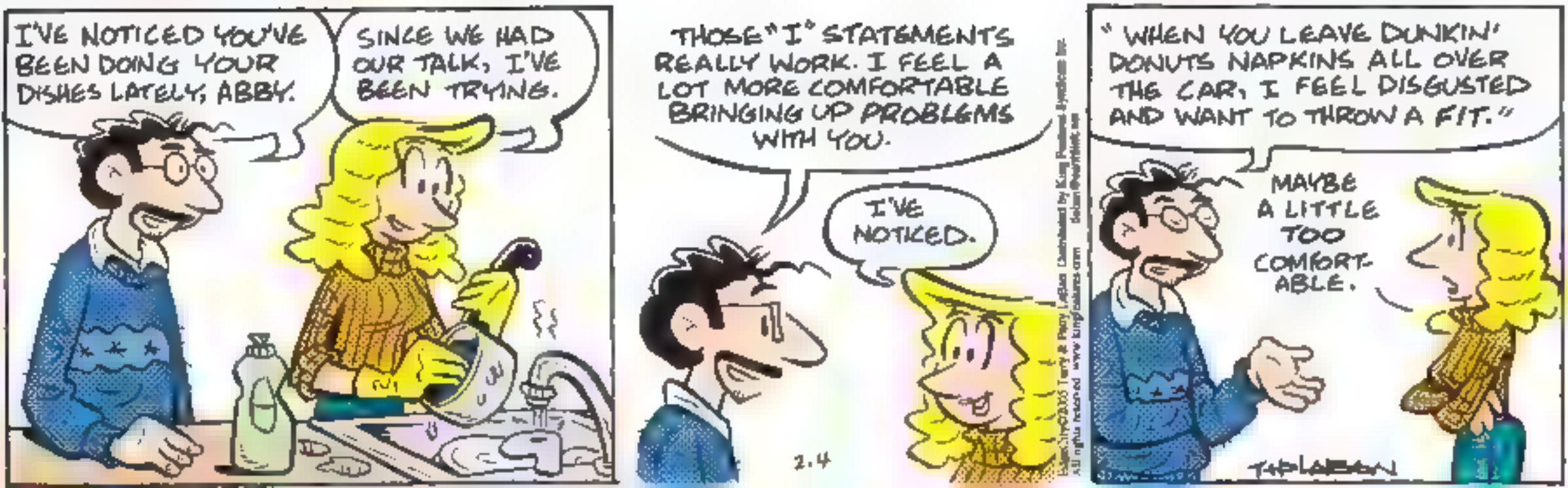

LET'S SEE... I'VE GOT A FLASHLIGHT, BATTERIES, A SLEEPING BAG, A SPACE BLANKET...
A RED CLOTH, SHOVELS, SAND, FLARES...
...WATER, APPLES, GRANOLA BARS...
ABBY, WE'RE ONLY GOING TO YOUR PARENTS' HOUSE!
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF WINTER, LEN! WE NEED TO BE PREPARED!
PREPARED FOR WHAT? AN EXPEDITION TO THE SOUTH POLE?
SO, I'M MORE CAUTIOUS THAN YOU ARE. HUMOR ME.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! JUST GIVE ME A GRANOLA BAR.
TRUDEAU 1.30

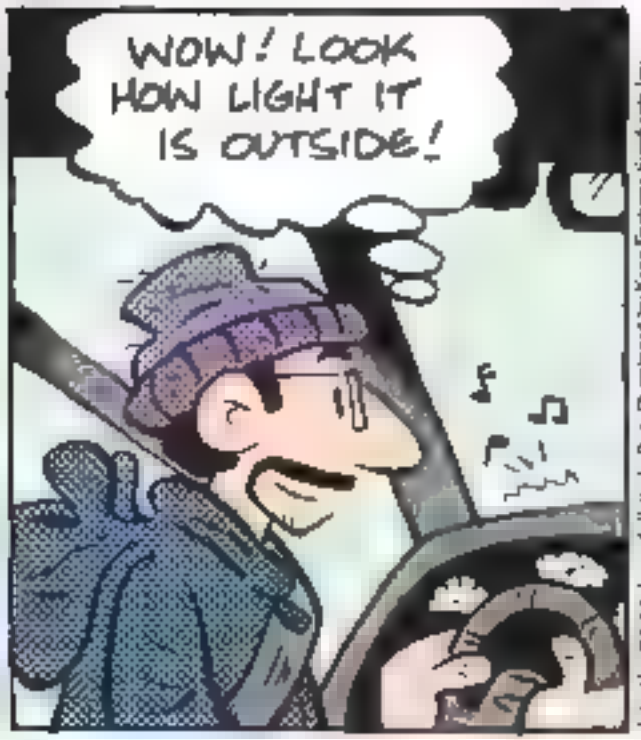

MAYBE I WAS KIND OF A JERK THIS MORNING. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE ABBY GOT THE MESSAGE.
HEH HEH... THANKS FOR DOING YOUR DISHES, SWEETIE!
PAT PAT!
STILL MAD, HUH?
SNAP!


I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS MORNING, ABBY. BUT IT REALLY BUGS ME WHEN YOU DON'T DO YOUR DISHES!
I UNDERSTAND, LEN.
IT WASN'T WHAT YOU SAID, IT WAS THE WAY YOU SAID IT!
MAYBE I DID GET A LITTLE UPSET.
LEN, YOU CALLED ME A SLOB!
I DIDN'T MEAN IT IN A BAD WAY.
TED LABRON

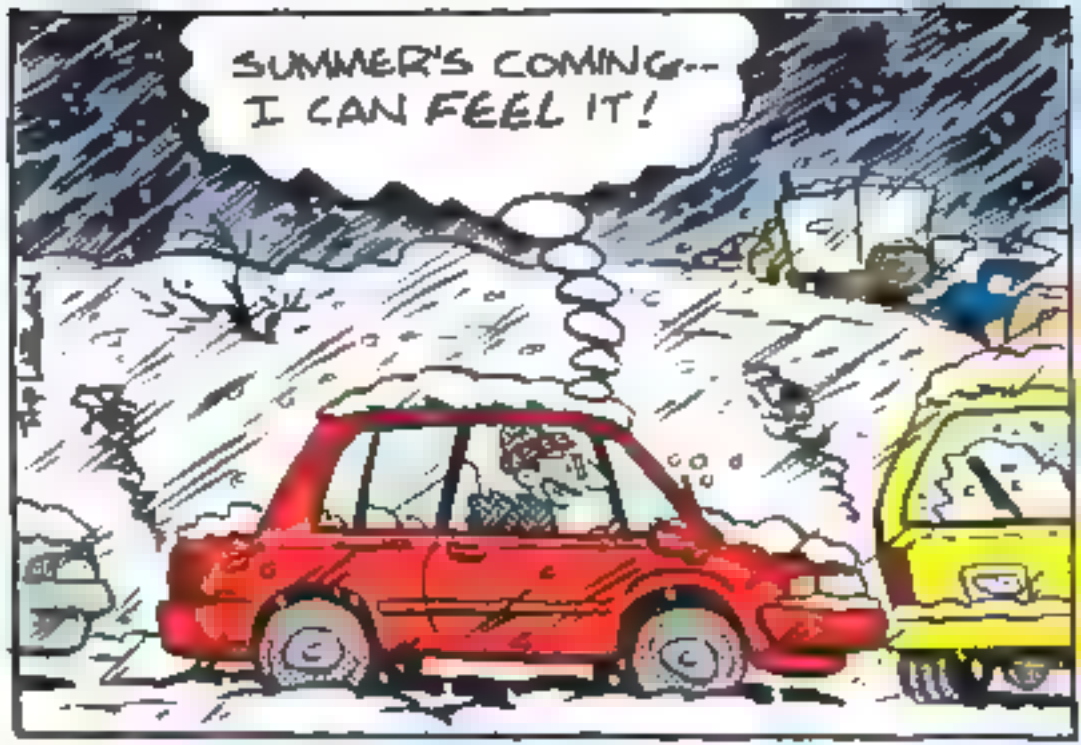

LEN, IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ME, TELL ME IN THE FORM OF AN "I" STATEMENT.
SAY "WHEN YOU ——, IT MAKES ME FEEL ——, AND I WANT TO ——."
TRY IT!
WELL-- ALL RIGHT.
"WHEN YOU DON'T DO YOUR DISHES, IT MAKES ME FEEL OUTRAGED, AND I WANT TO PUNCH A HOLE IN THE WALL."
OK! THAT'S GOOD!
2.1

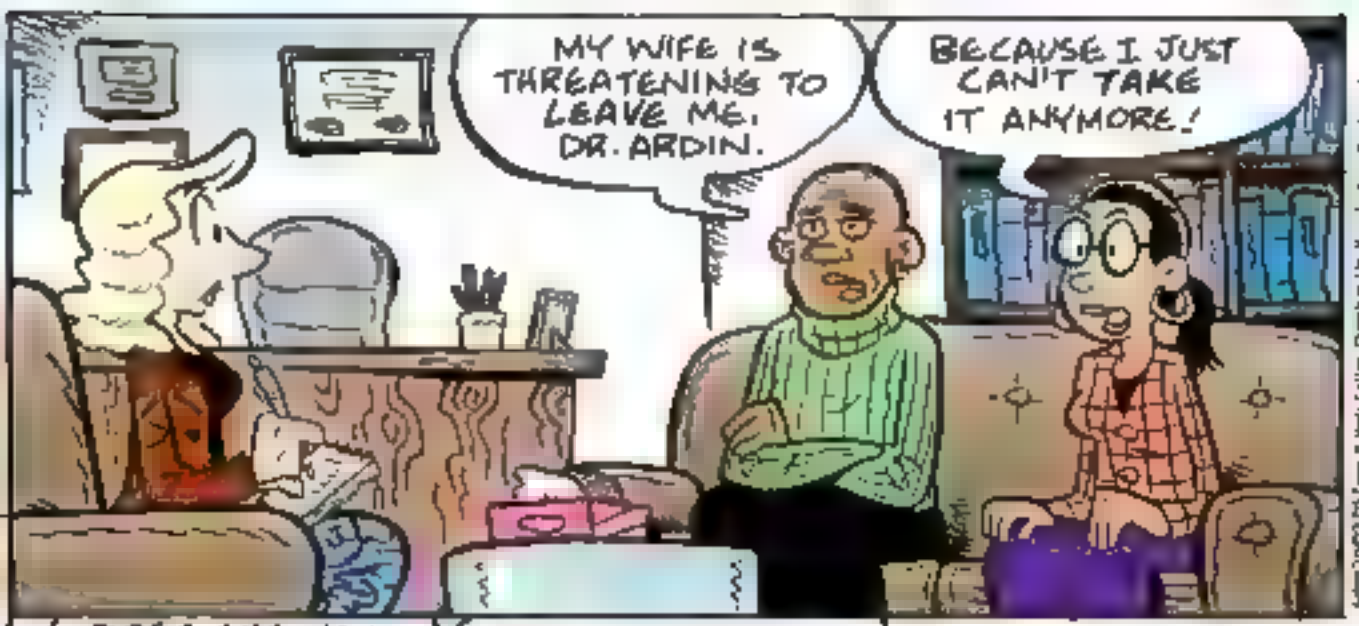

LEN, IF WE HAVE A PROBLEM, WE NEED TO MAKE "I" STATEMENTS.
FINE.
"WHEN YOU DON'T DO YOUR DISHES, IT MAKES ME FEEL FURIOUS, AND I WANT TO DUMP THEM ON YOUR HEAD."
OK--MY TURN.
"WHEN YOU CALL ME A SLOB, IT MAKES ME FEEL ATTACKED, AND I WANT TO PUNCH YOUR LIGHTS OUT."
I HEAR YOU SAY YOU WANT TO DUMP DISHES ON MY HEAD.
I HEAR YOU SAY YOU WANT TO PUNCH MY LIGHTS OUT.
AW, NOT THAT MUCH.
ME EITHER, ANYMORE.
2-3

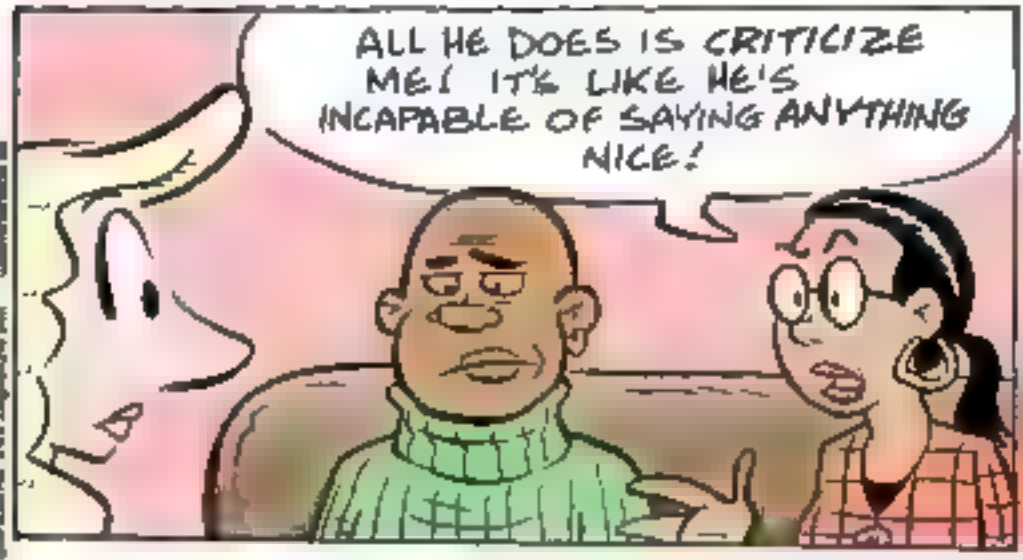

I'VE NOTICED YOU'VE BEEN DOING YOUR DISHES LATELY, ABBY.
SINCE WE HAD OUR TALK, I'VE BEEN TRYING.
THOSE "I" STATEMENTS REALLY WORK. I FEEL A LOT MORE COMFORTABLE BRINGING UP PROBLEMS WITH YOU.
I'VE NOTICED.
2.4
"WHEN YOU LEAVE DUNKIN' DONUTS NAPKINS ALL OVER THE CAR, I FEEL DISGUSTED AND WANT TO THROW A FIT."
MAYBE A LITTLE TOO COMFORTABLE.

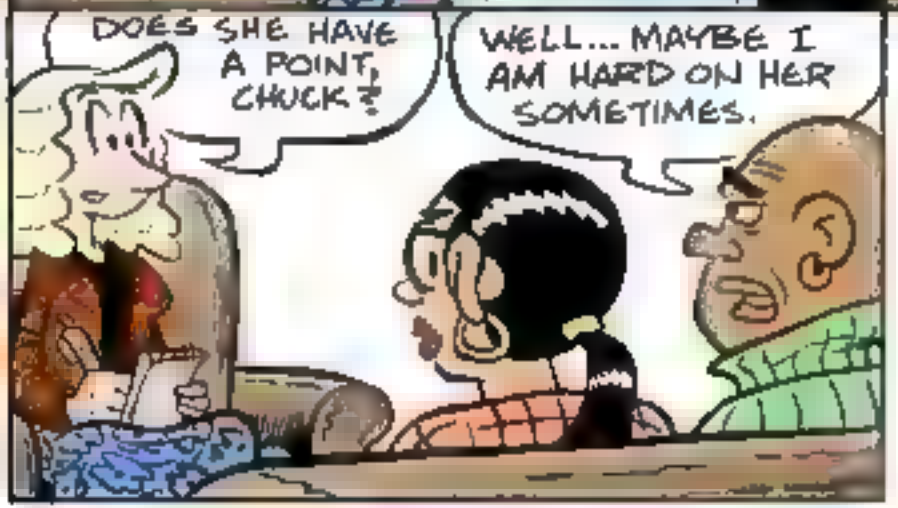

WOW! LOOK HOW LIGHT IT IS OUTSIDE!

A MONTH AGO, IT WAS ALREADY DARK THIS TIME OF DAY!
2-5


SUMMER'S COMING-- I CAN FEEL IT!


MY WIFE IS THREATENING TO LEAVE ME, DR. ARDIN.
BECAUSE I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!

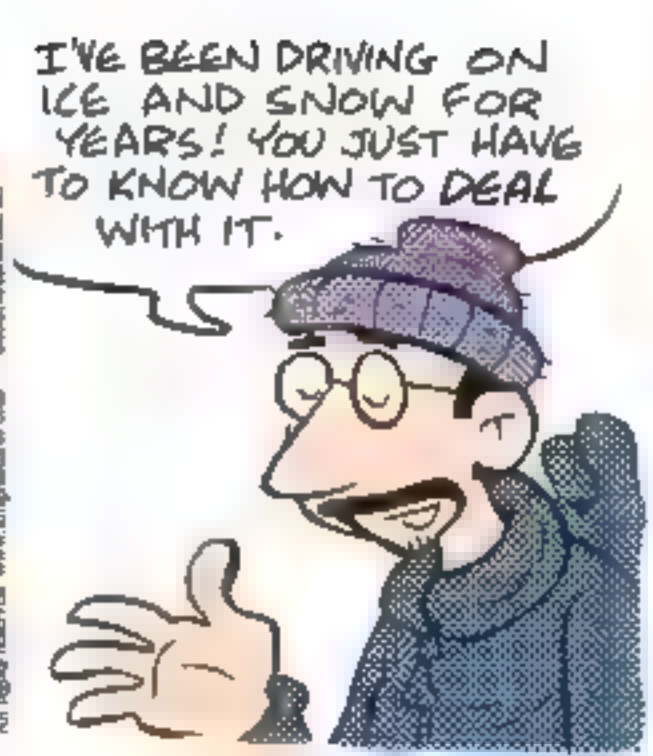

ALL HE DOES IS CRITICIZE ME! IT'S LIKE HE'S INCAPABLE OF SAYING ANYTHING NICE!

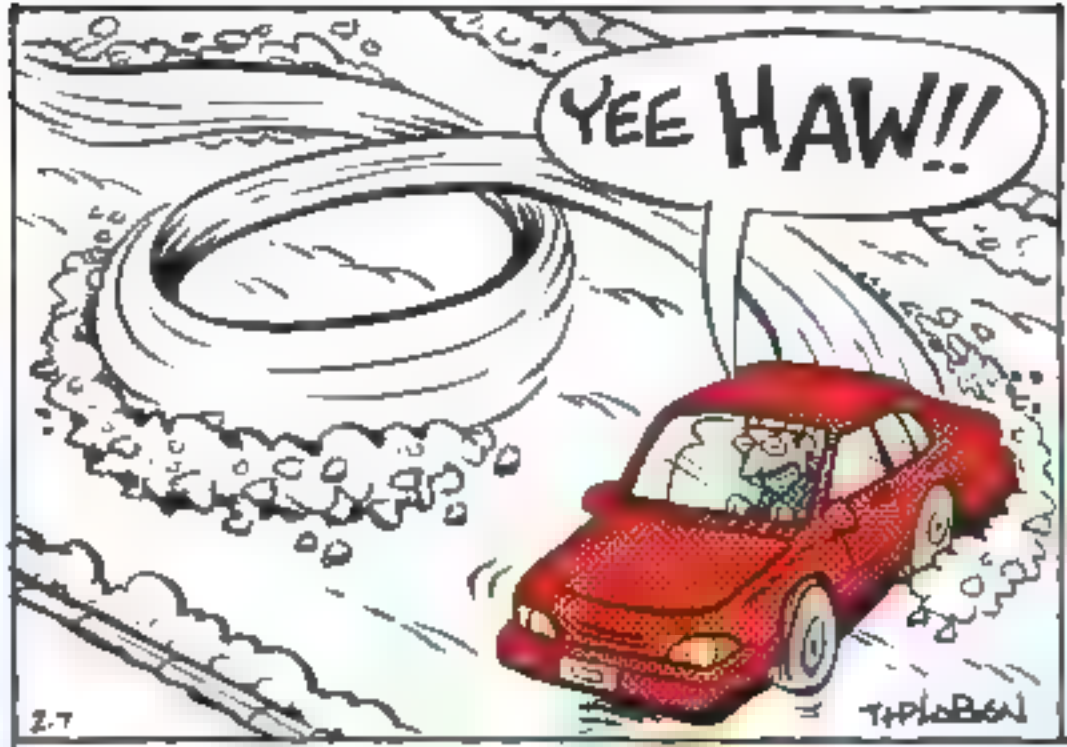

DOES SHE HAVE A POINT, CHUCK?
WELL... MAYBE I AM HARD ON HER SOMETIMES.

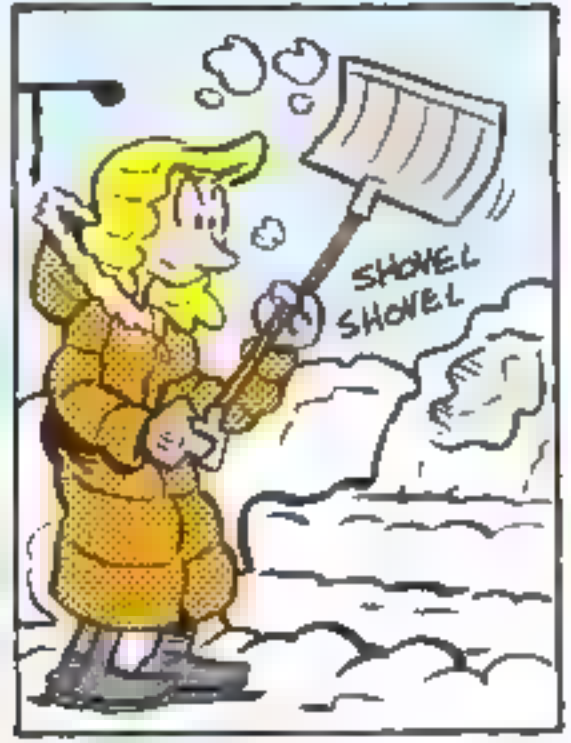
LET'S TRY AN EXERCISE. CHUCK, I WANT YOU TO TURN TO CYNTHIA, LOOK HER IN THE EYE, AND GIVE HER A COMPLIMENT.

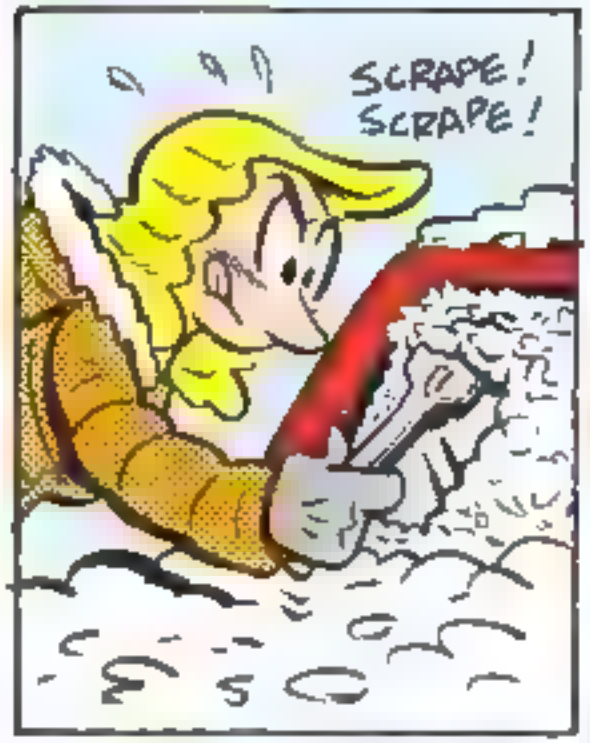
UM... THAT OUTFIT DOESN'T LOOK NEARLY AS BAD ON YOU AS SOME OF YOUR OTHER ONES!
OK-- FEEDBACK?

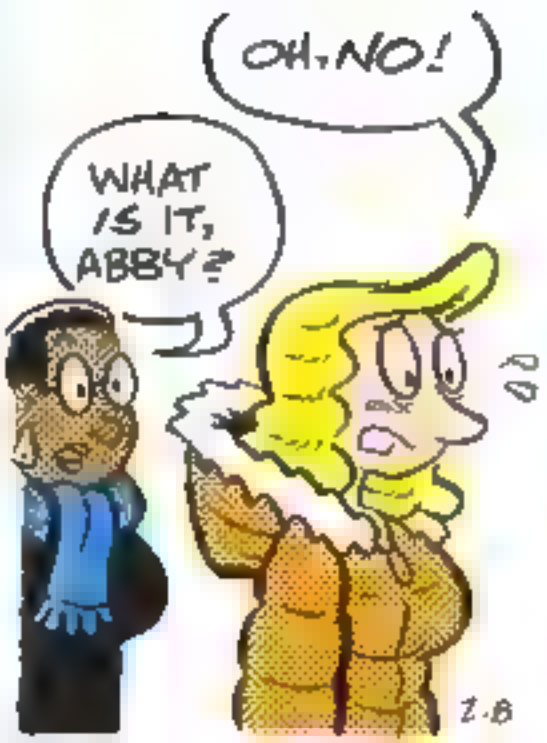
DRIVE CAREFULLY, LEN. IT'S SLIPPERY OUT THERE!
DON'T WORRY, ABBY.


I'VE BEEN DRIVING ON ICE AND SNOW FOR YEARS! YOU JUST HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH IT.


YEE HAW!!
2-7
THPLoBGN







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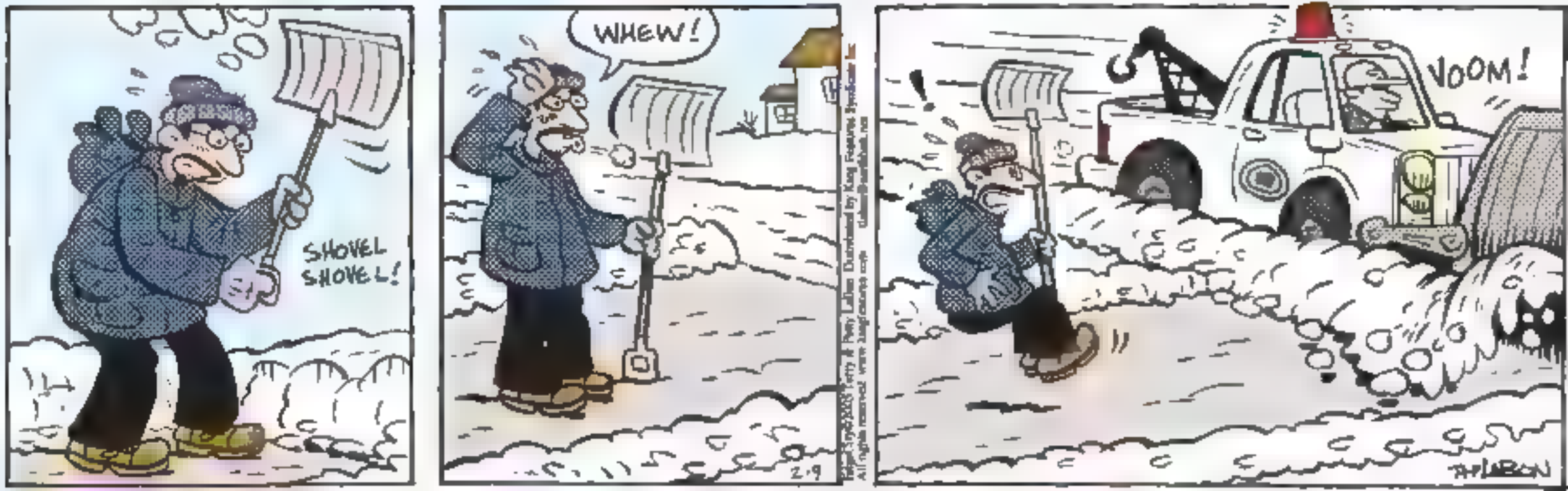
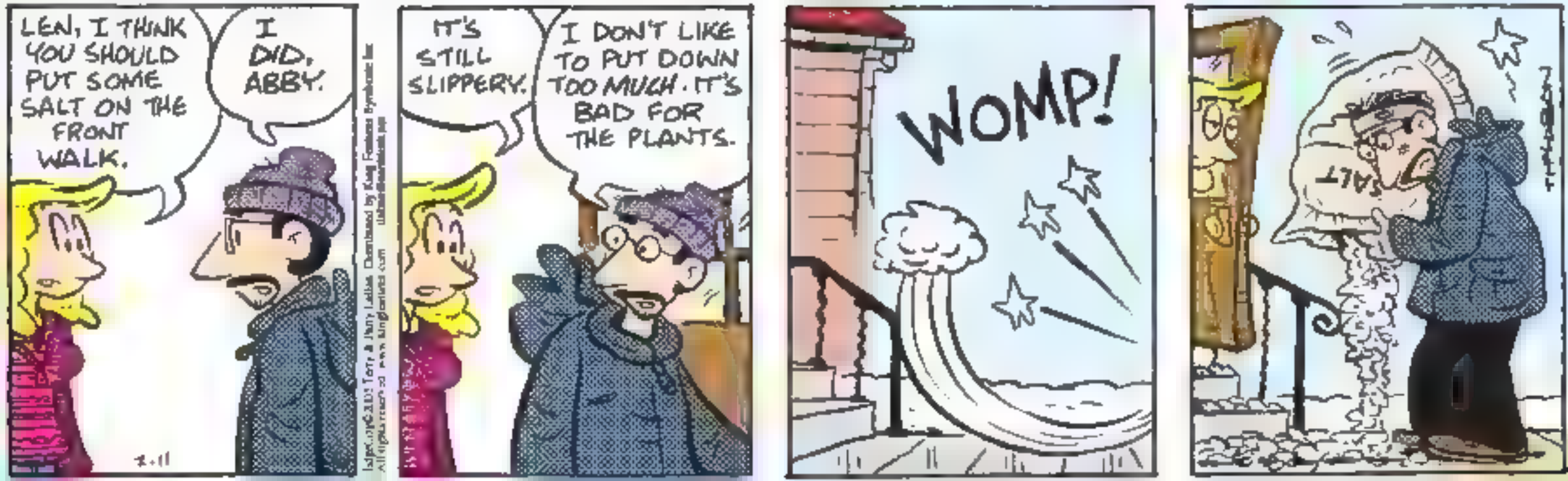
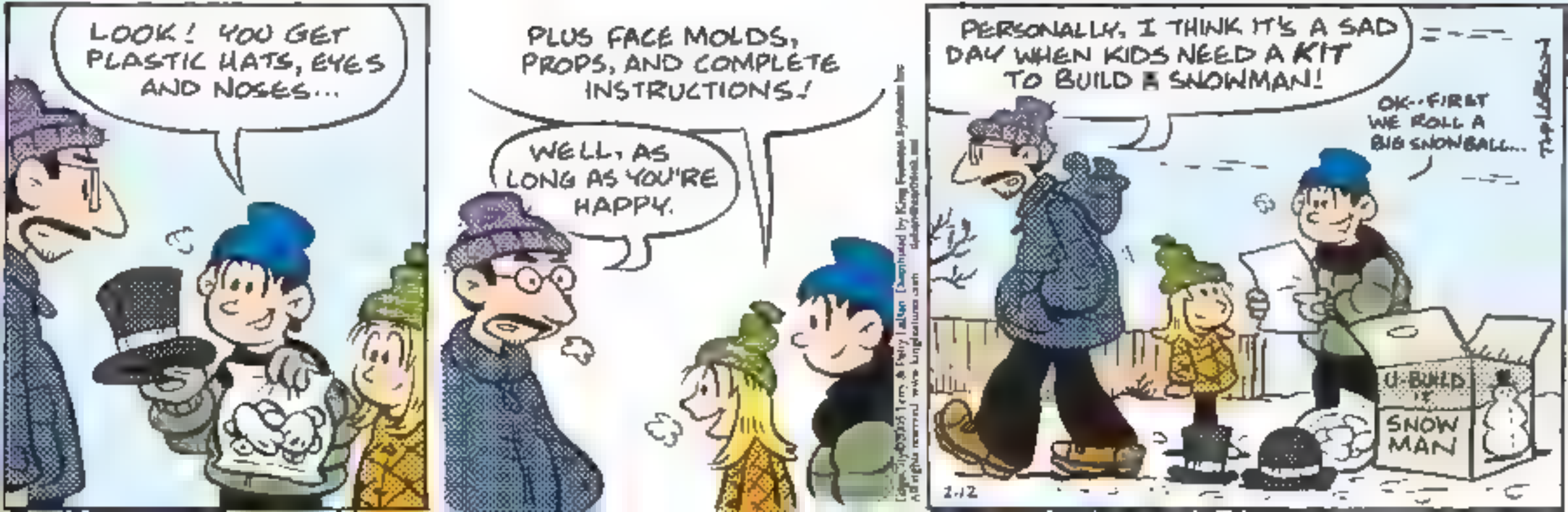

SHOVEL SHOVEL!
WHEW!
VOOM!

HELLO, AAA? I WANT TO RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP...


LEN, I THINK YOU SHOULD PUT SOME SALT ON THE FRONT WALK.
I DID, ABBY.
IT'S STILL SLIPPERY.
I DON'T LIKE TO PUT DOWN TOO MUCH. IT'S BAD FOR THE PLANTS.
WOMP!
SALT

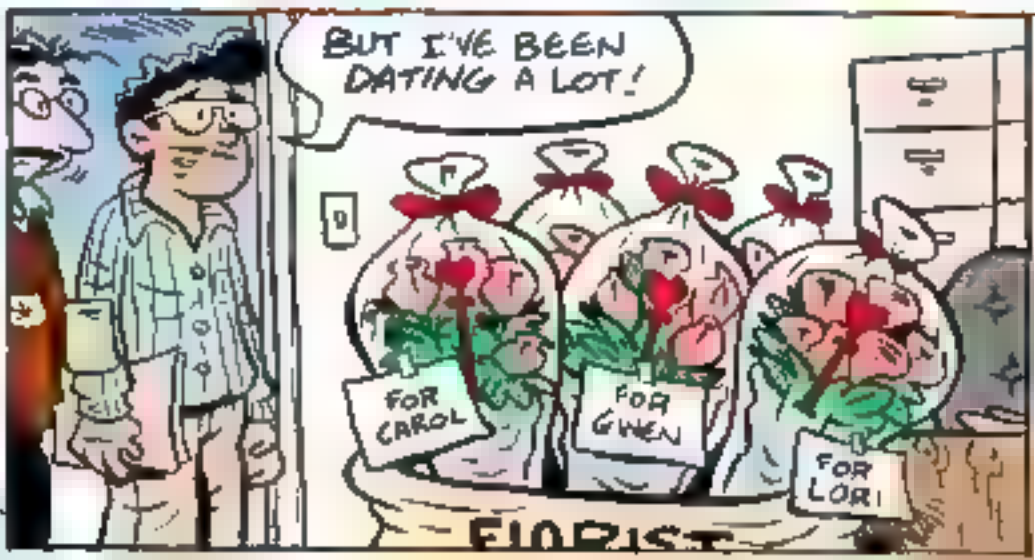

LOOK! YOU GET PLASTIC HATS, EYES AND NOSES...
PLUS FACE MOLDS, PROPS, AND COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS!
WELL, AS LONG AS YOU'RE HAPPY.
PERSONALLY, I THINK IT'S A SAD DAY WHEN KIDS NEED A KIT TO BUILD A SNOWMAN!
OK.. FIRST WE ROLL A BIG SNOWBALL...
U-BUILD IT SNOW MAN
2-12

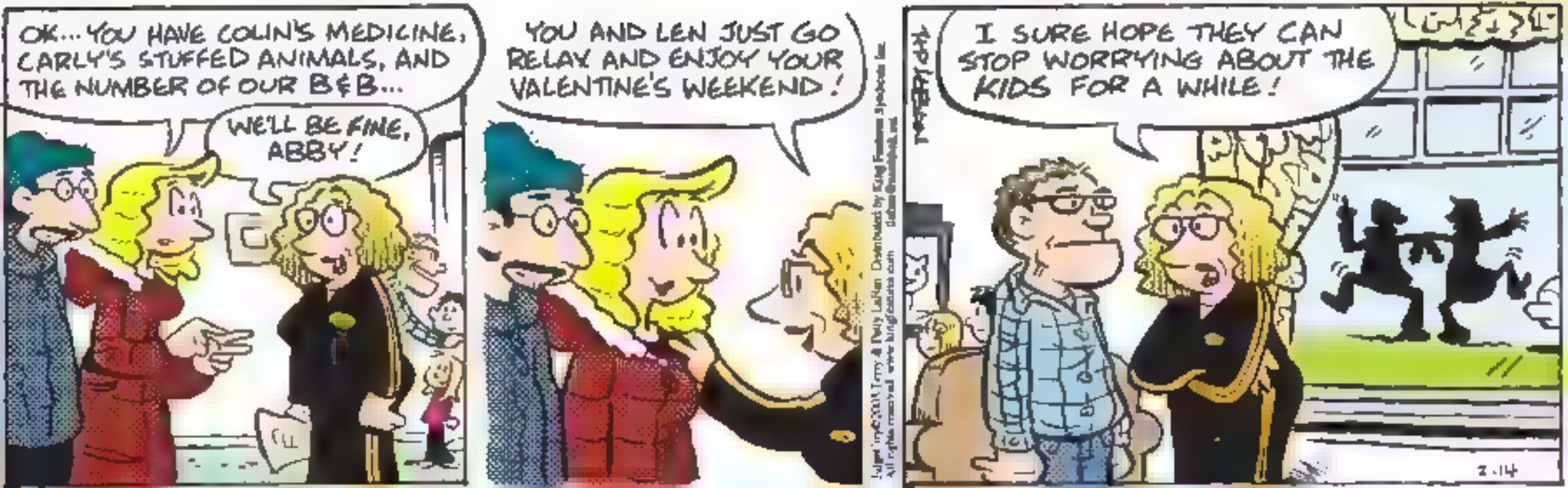
VALENTINE'S DAY IS TOMORROW, RAJIV.
DON'T I KNOW IT!

YOU DON'T SOUND VERY ENTHUSIASTIC.
IT'S A LOT OF TROUBLE AND EXPENSE, IF YOU ASK ME!

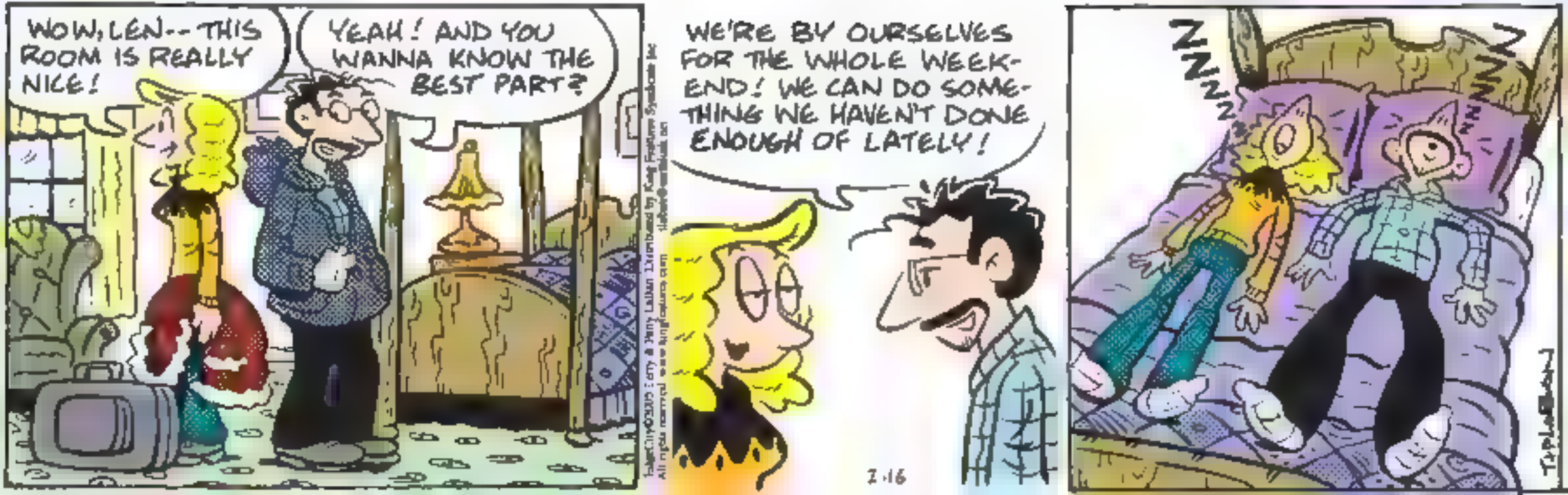
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? YOU BUY FLOWERS, A CARD, AND MAYBE A PAIR OF EARRINGS!
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY. YOU'RE MARRIED!

SO? I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A STEADY GIRLFRIEND RIGHT NOW!
I DON'T.

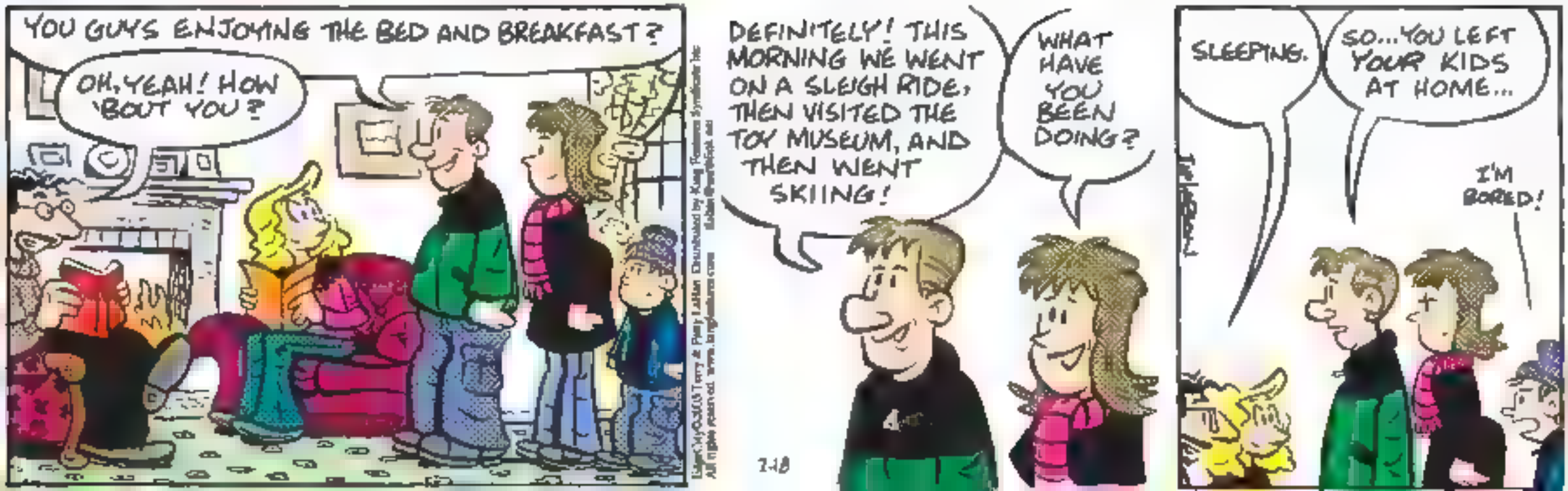

BUT I'VE BEEN DATING A LOT!
FOR CAROL
FOR GWEN
FOR LORI
FLORIST

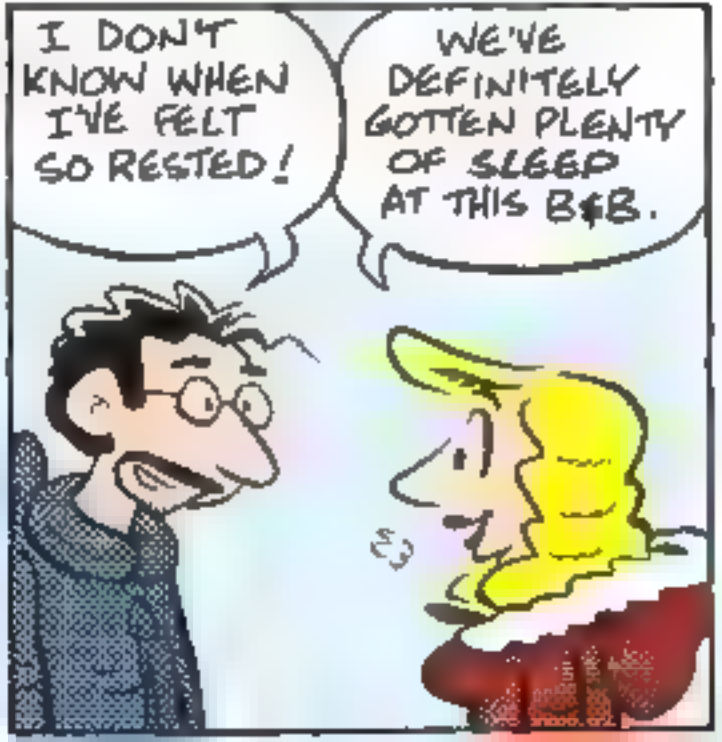

OK... YOU HAVE COLIN'S MEDICINE, CARLY'S STUFFED ANIMALS, AND THE NUMBER OF OUR B&B...
WE'LL BE FINE, ABBY!
YOU AND LEN JUST GO RELAX AND ENJOY YOUR VALENTINE'S WEEKEND!
I SURE HOPE THEY CAN STOP WORRYING ABOUT THE KIDS FOR A WHILE!
2-14

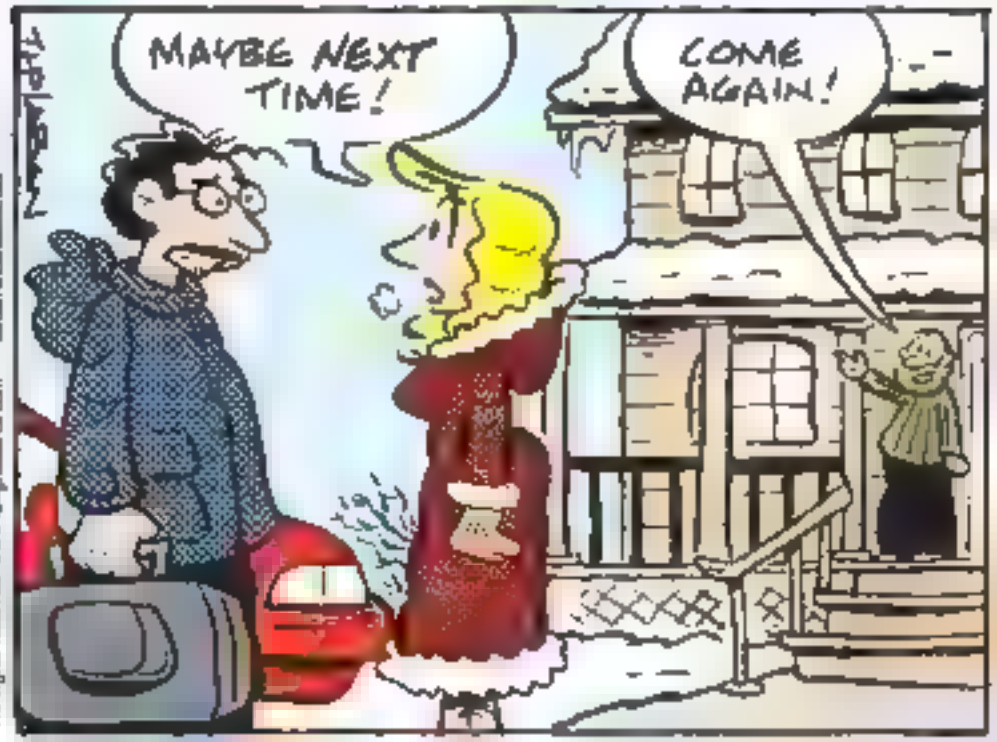
WE'RE THE ARDINS. WE HAVE RESERVATIONS THIS WEEKEND AT YOUR B&B.
RIGHT! WELCOME!
LET'S SEE...WHICH ROOM ARE YOU IN? THE COZY CORNER? THE RUSTIC RETREAT?
2-15
WE HAVE THE COUPLE'S WEEKEND SPECIAL.
AH, YES! THE NOOKIE NOOK.


WOW, LEN-- THIS ROOM IS REALLY NICE!
YEAH! AND YOU WANNA KNOW THE BEST PART?
WE'RE BY OURSELVES FOR THE WHOLE WEEK-END! WE CAN DO SOMETHING WE HAVEN'T DONE ENOUGH OF LATELY!
7-16
ZZZZZ
ZZZZZ

BOY, A WEEKEND AT A B&B IS JUST WHAT I NEEDED!
I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'VE HAD SUCH A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!
LET'S GO GET SOME BREAKFAST!
HOW 'BOUT SUPPER? IT'S 4:00 IN THE AFTERNOON!
2.17


YOU GUYS ENJOYING THE BED AND BREAKFAST?
OH, YEAH! HOW 'BOUT YOU?
DEFINITELY! THIS MORNING WE WENT ON A SLEIGH RIDE, THEN VISITED THE TOY MUSEUM, AND THEN WENT SKIING!
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?
SLEEPING.
SO...YOU LEFT YOUR KIDS AT HOME...
I'M BORED!





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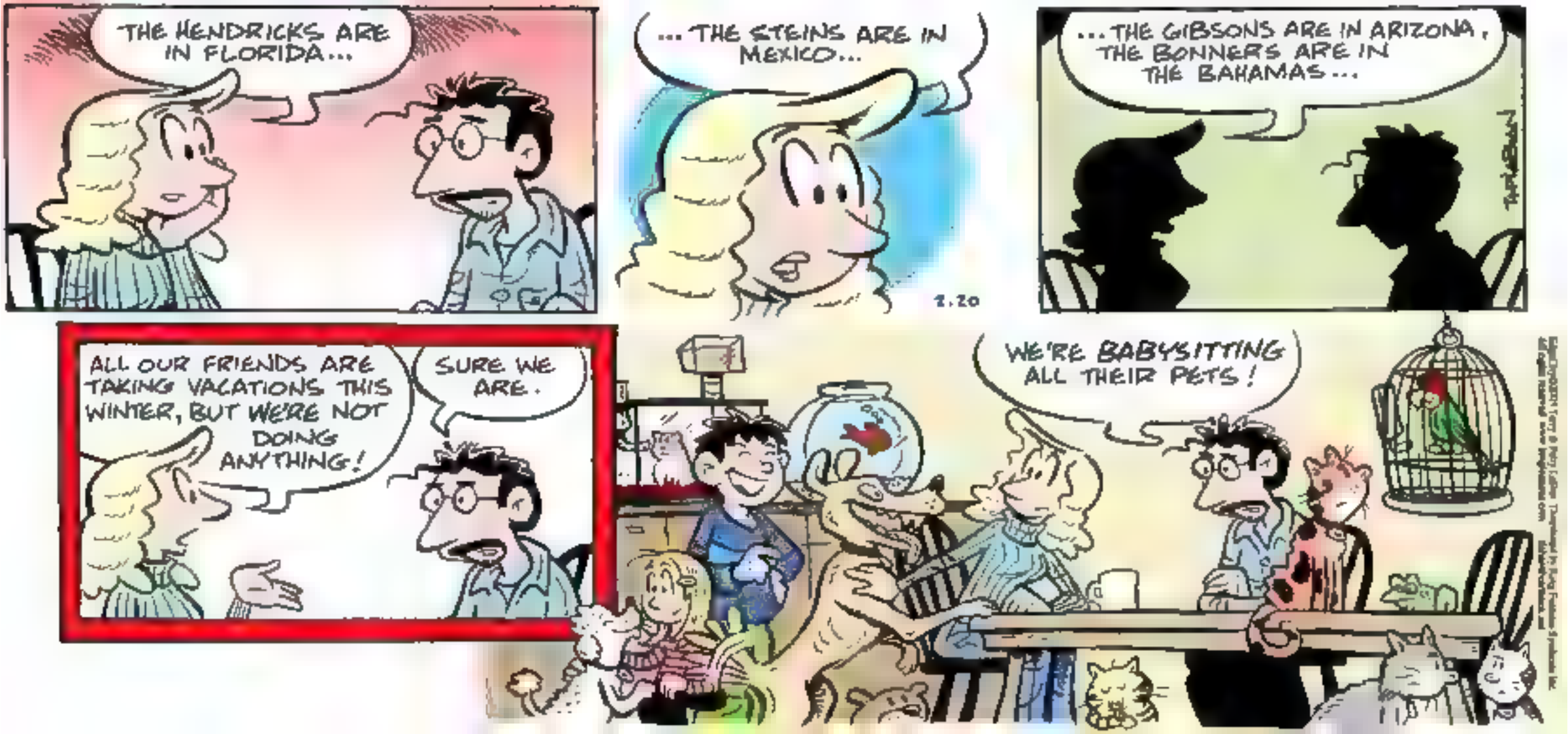
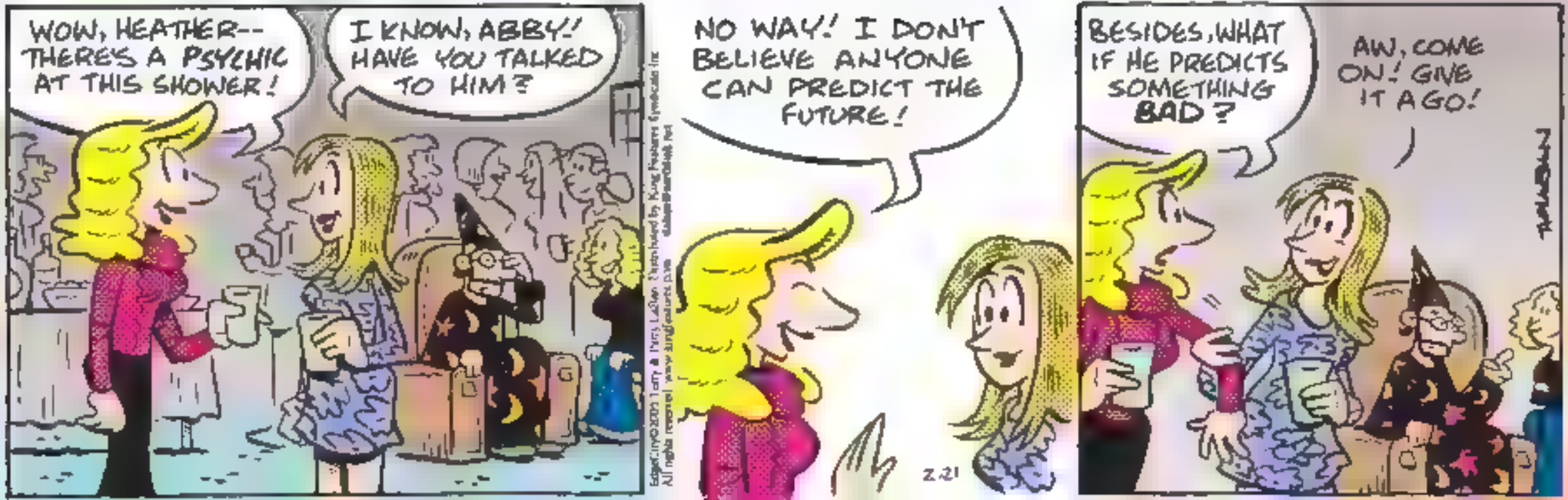
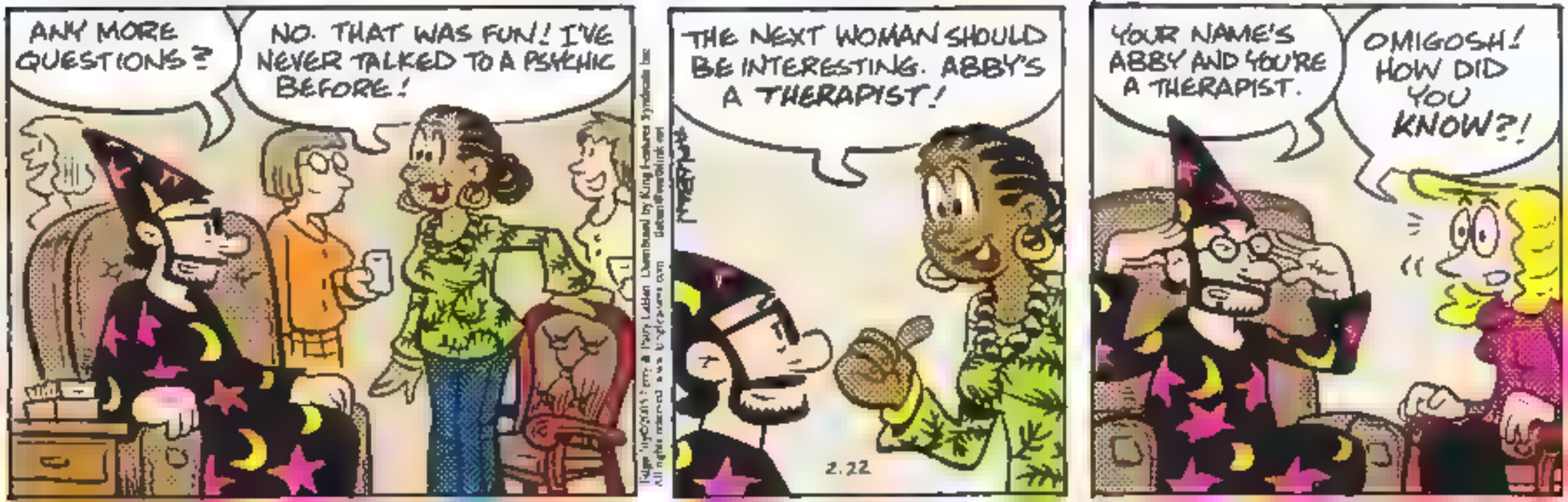

THE HENDRICKS ARE IN FLORIDA...
...THE STEINS ARE IN MEXICO...
2.20
...THE GIBSONS ARE IN ARIZONA, THE BONNERS ARE IN THE BAHAMAS...
ALL OUR FRIENDS ARE TAKING VACATIONS THIS WINTER, BUT WE'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING!
SURE WE ARE.
WE'RE BABYSITTING ALL THEIR PETS!


WOW, HEATHER-- THERE'S A PSYCHIC AT THIS SHOWER!
I KNOW, ABBY! HAVE YOU TALKED TO HIM?
NO WAY! I DON'T BELIEVE ANYONE CAN PREDICT THE FUTURE!
BESIDES, WHAT IF HE PREDICTS SOMETHING BAD?
AW, COME ON! GIVE IT A GO!

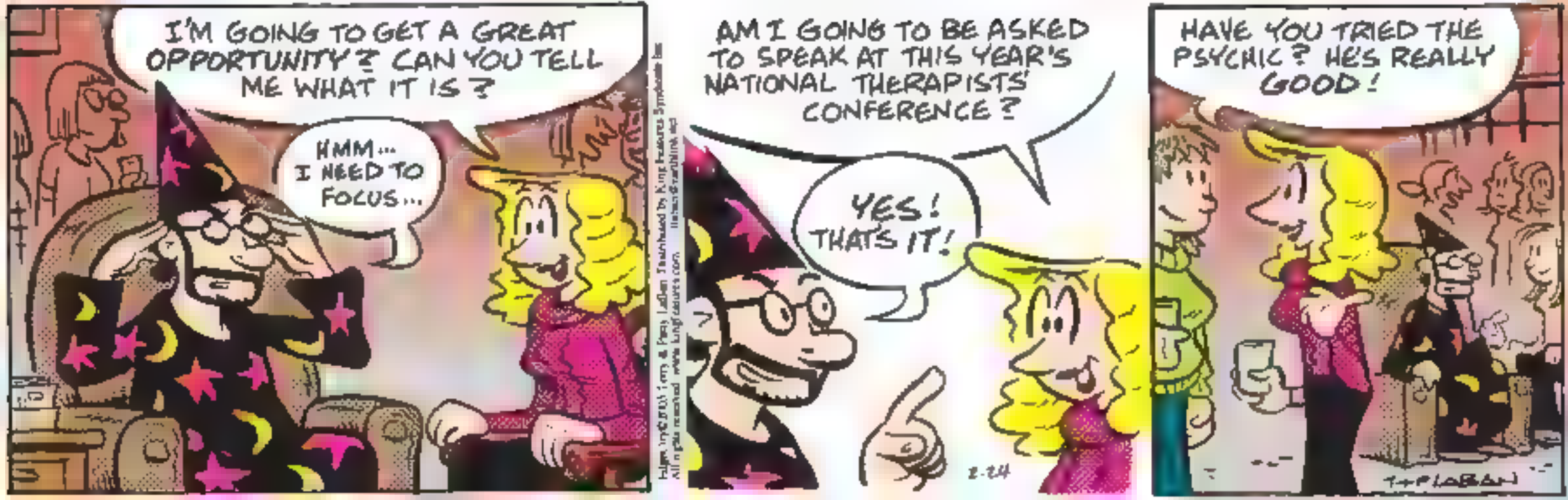

ANY MORE QUESTIONS?
NO. THAT WAS FUN! I'VE NEVER TALKED TO A PSYCHIC BEFORE!
THE NEXT WOMAN SHOULD BE INTERESTING. ABBY'S A THERAPIST!
2.22
YOUR NAME'S ABBY AND YOU'RE A THERAPIST.
OMIGOSH! HOW DID YOU KNOW?!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M TALKING TO A PSYCHIC AT A PARTY!
JUST RELAX.
1-23

HMMM... I SEE TROUBLES IN YOUR MARRIAGE. AM I RIGHT?
NO, NOT REALLY.

YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS?
NOPE.
SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU JUST HAD A CHILD?
NO.

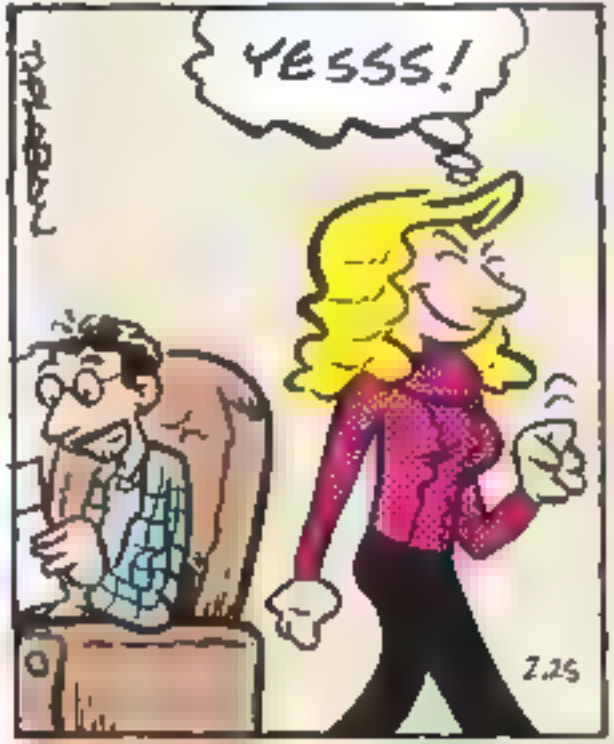
I SEE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY COMING YOUR WAY.
YOU DO?!

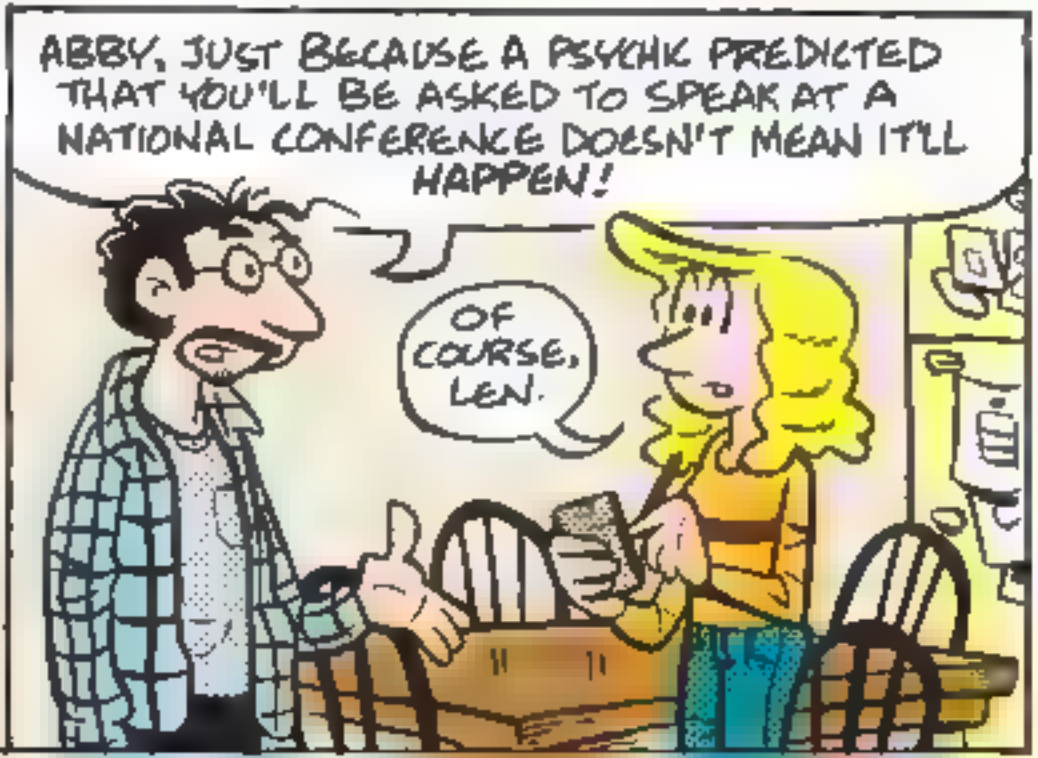

I'M GOING TO GET A GREAT OPPORTUNITY? CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT IT IS?
HMM... I NEED TO FOCUS...
AM I GOING TO BE ASKED TO SPEAK AT THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL THERAPISTS' CONFERENCE?
YES! THAT'S IT!
HAVE YOU TRIED THE PSYCHIC? HE'S REALLY GOOD!

HI, ABBY. HOW WAS THE SHOWER?
REALLY FUN, LEN! THEY HAD A PSYCHIC!

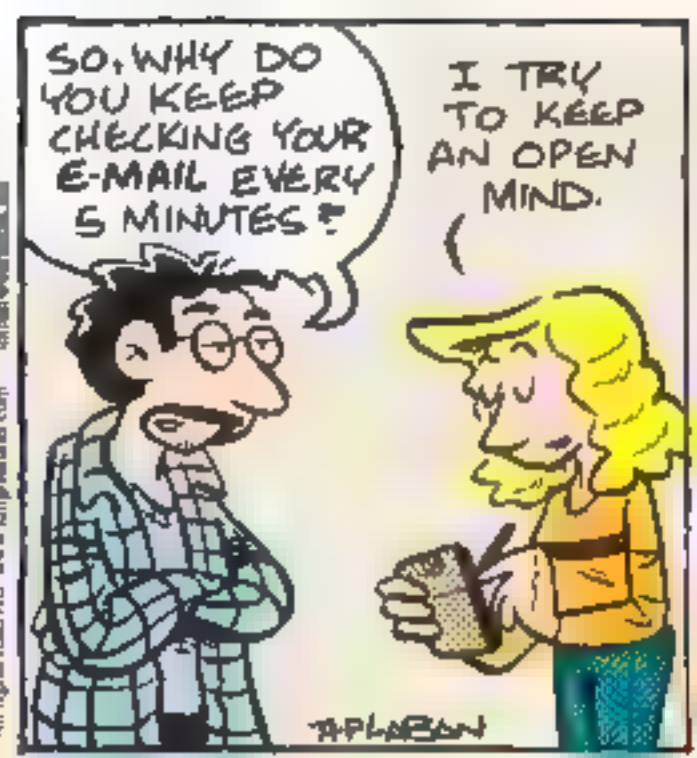
HE PREDICTED THAT I'LL BE ASKED TO SPEAK AT THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL THERAPISTS' CONFERENCE!

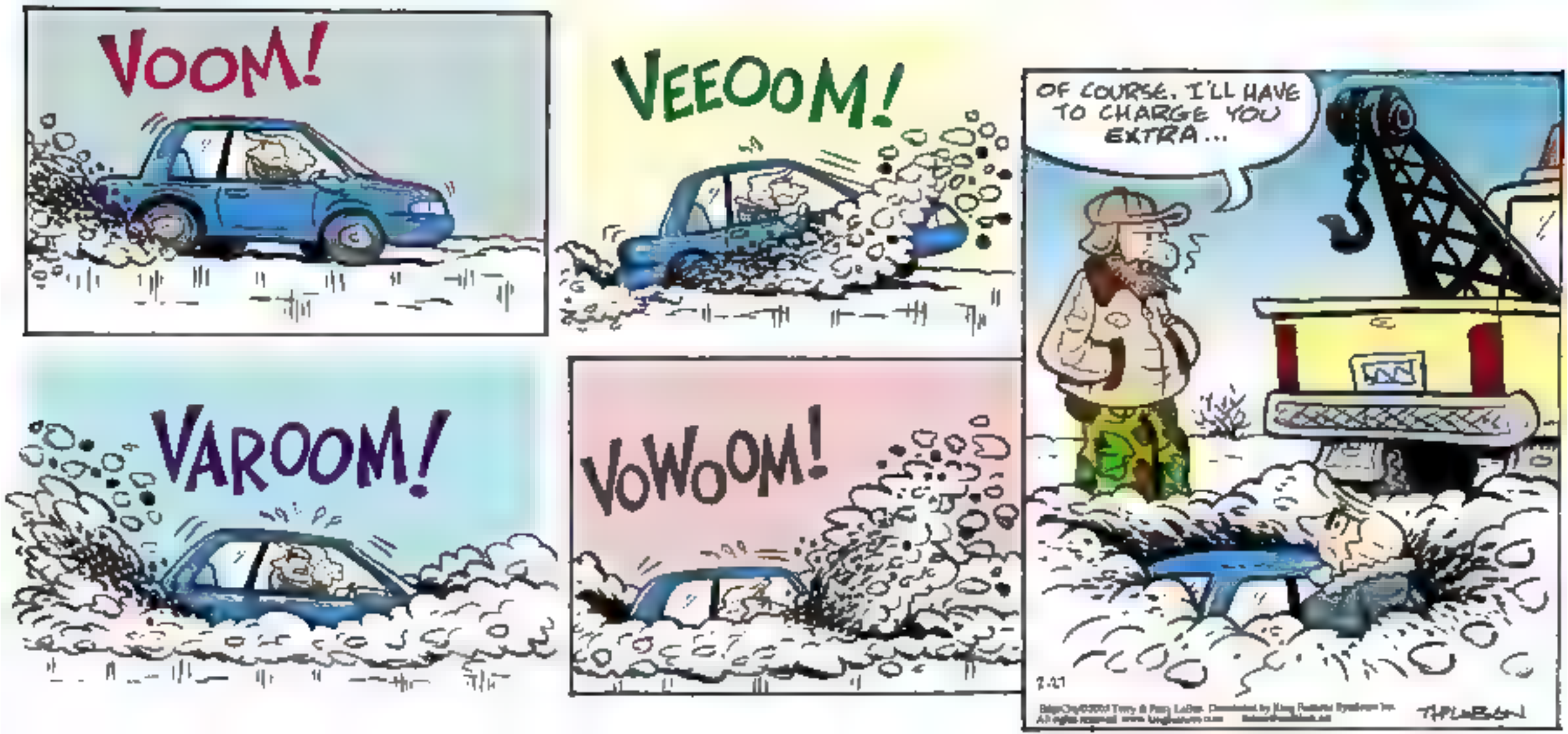
WELL, DON'T TAKE IT TOO SERIOUSLY.
OF COURSE NOT! I WOULDN'T PIN MY HOPES ON WHAT A PSYCHIC SAYS!


YESSS!
7.25

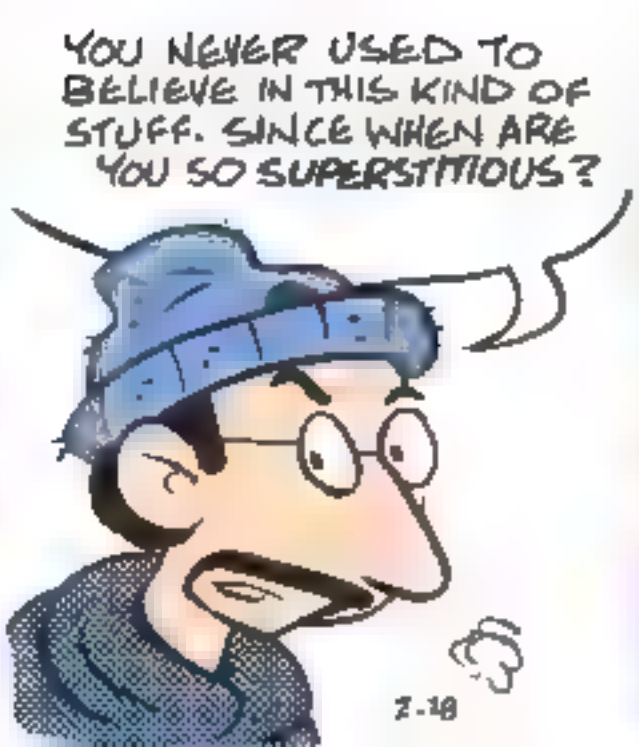

ABBY, JUST BECAUSE A PSYCHIC PREDICTED THAT YOU'LL BE ASKED TO SPEAK AT A NATIONAL CONFERENCE DOESN'T MEAN IT'LL HAPPEN!
OF COURSE, LEN.

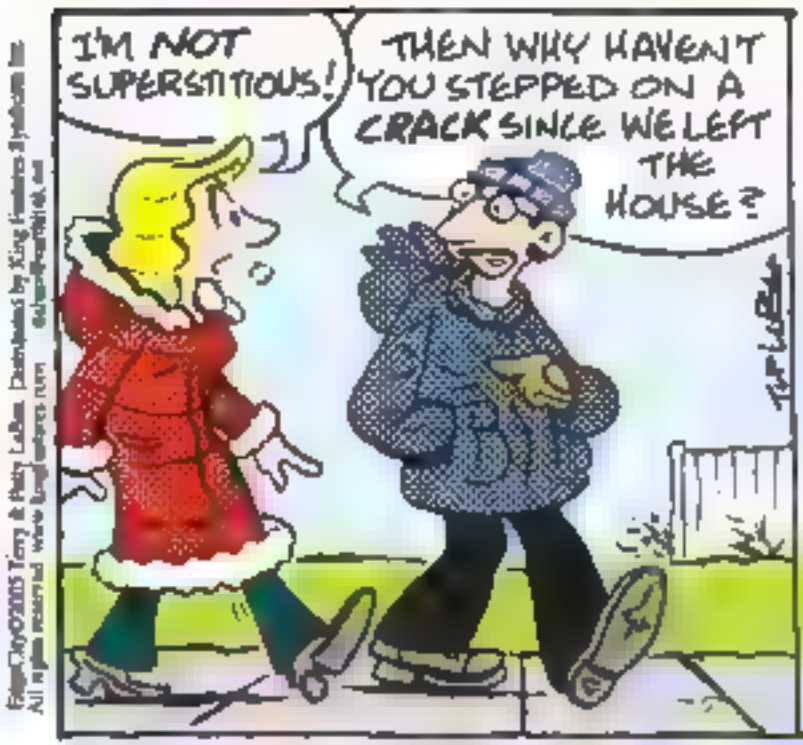
IT'D BE SILLY TO GIVE MUCH WEIGHT TO WHAT A PSYCHIC SAYS.
2-26

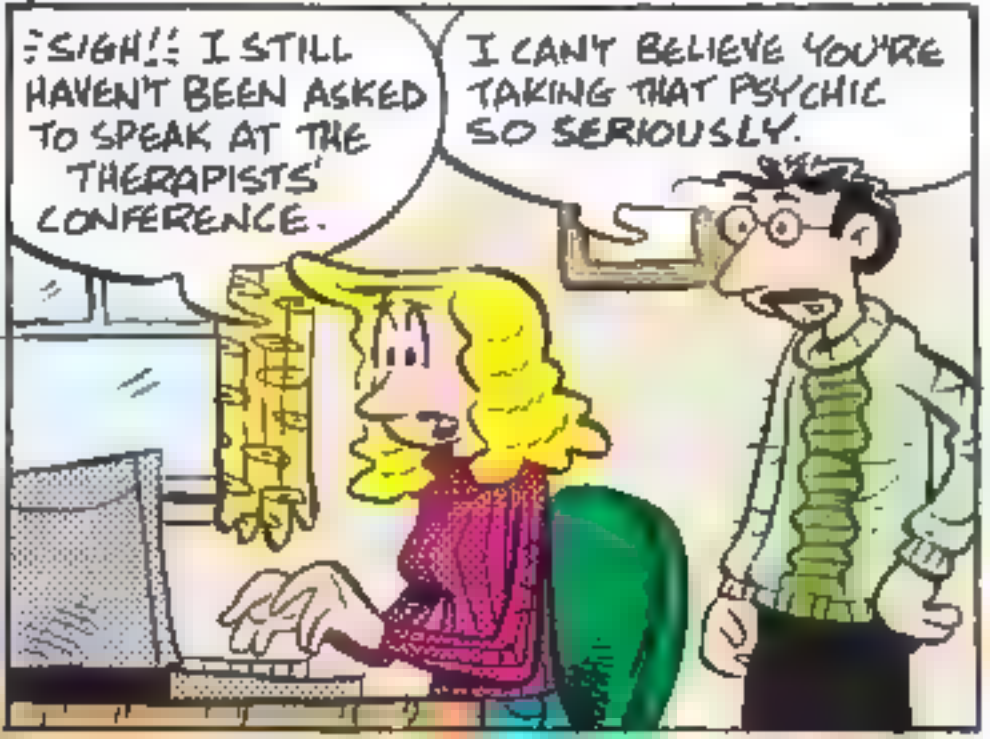

SO, WHY DO YOU KEEP CHECKING YOUR E-MAIL EVERY 5 MINUTES?
I TRY TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND.
TAPLABAN


VOOM!
VEEOOM!
OF COURSE. I'LL HAVE TO CHARGE YOU EXTRA...
VAROOM!
VOWOOM!

I WONDER IF I'LL REALLY BE ASKED TO SPEAK AT THE THERAPISTS' CONFERENCE.
JUST BECAUSE A PSYCHIC SAID YOU WOULD? COME ON!


YOU NEVER USED TO BELIEVE IN THIS KIND OF STUFF. SINCE WHEN ARE YOU SO SUPERSTITIOUS?
2-18


I'M NOT SUPERSTITIOUS!
THEN WHY HAVEN'T YOU STEPPED ON A CRACK SINCE WE LEFT THE HOUSE?


:SIGH!: I STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ASKED TO SPEAK AT THE THERAPISTS' CONFERENCE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE TAKING THAT PSYCHIC SO SERIOUSLY.

HE SAID IT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN, LEN-- AND I FEEL LIKE IT WILL!

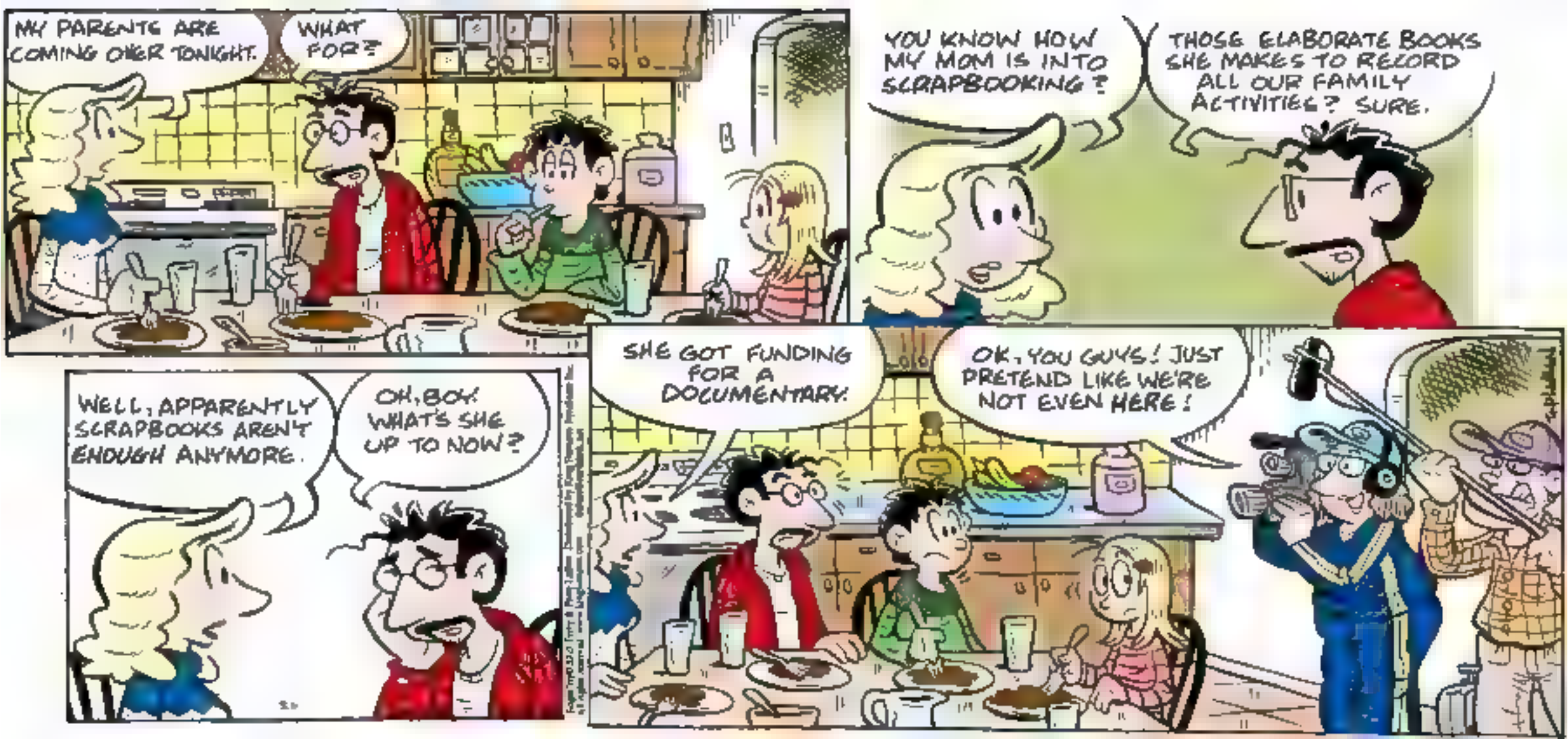
THIS YEAR?
UM... HE DIDN'T EXACTLY TELL ME THAT...

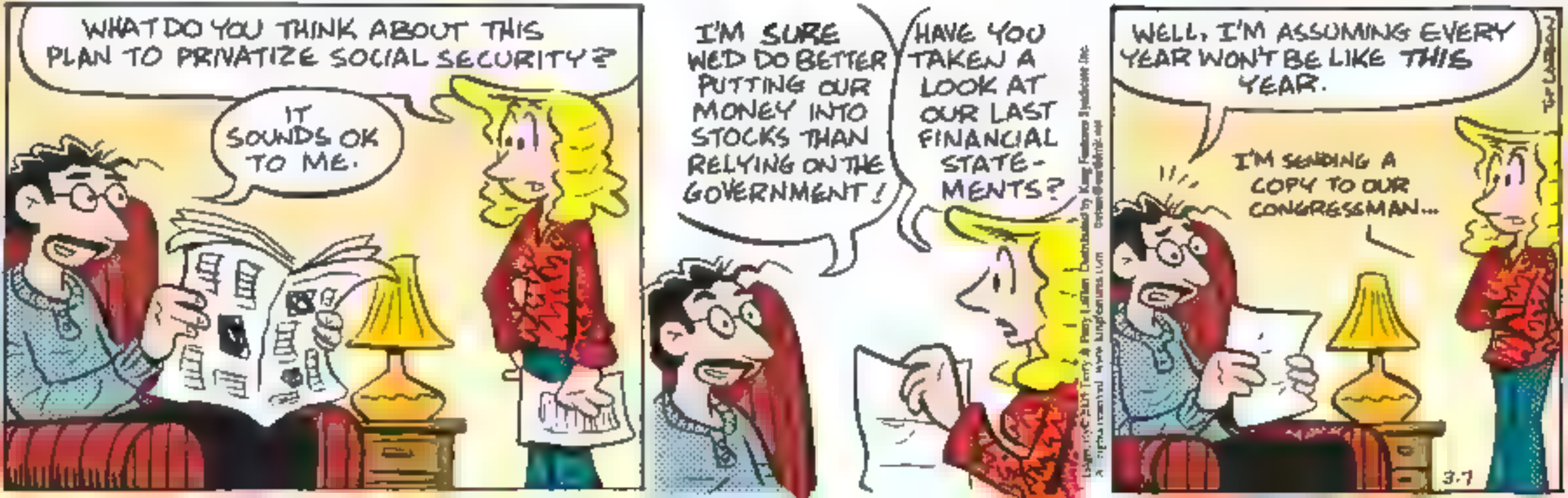
ABBY, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THE PSYCHIC SAID-- IT'S UNLIKELY YOU'LL JUST BE ASKED TO SPEAK AT THE NATIONAL THERAPISTS' CONFERENCE!
YOU'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING TO SPARK THEIR INTEREST! CALL THEM UP! WRITE A PROPOSAL!
WOULDN'T THAT BE CHEATING ?
I WON'T TELL IF YOU DON'T.

THAT PSYCHIC PREDICTED I'D BE ASKED TO SPEAK AT THE THERAPISTS' CONFERENCE. BUT I HAVENT HEARD ANYTHING YET.
LEN'S RIGHT-- I SHOULD SEND THEM A PROPOSAL.
3.3
OF COURSE, I STILL THINK IT'LL HAPPEN...
...BUT MAYBE MY LUCK IS THE KIND THAT NEEDS A PUSH.
TAPA TAPA

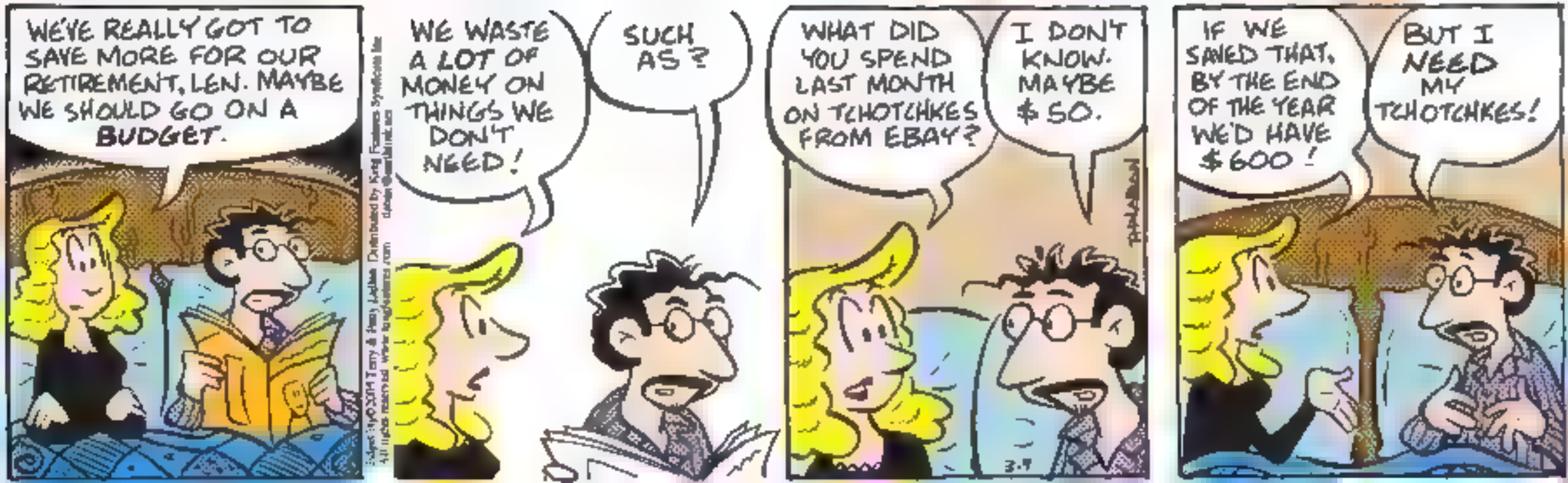
WOW!
HEY, LEN! THE PSYCHIC WAS RIGHT! I WAS JUST ASKED TO SPEAK AT THE NATIONAL THERAPISTS' CONVENTION!
WHAT?! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I SENT THEM A PROPOSAL, AND THEY LIKED IT!
OH! YOU SENT THEM A PROPOSAL, HUH?
SO, YOU DID IT-- NOT SOME COSMIC FORCE!
I PREFER TO THINK OF IT AS A JOINT EFFORT.
3.4

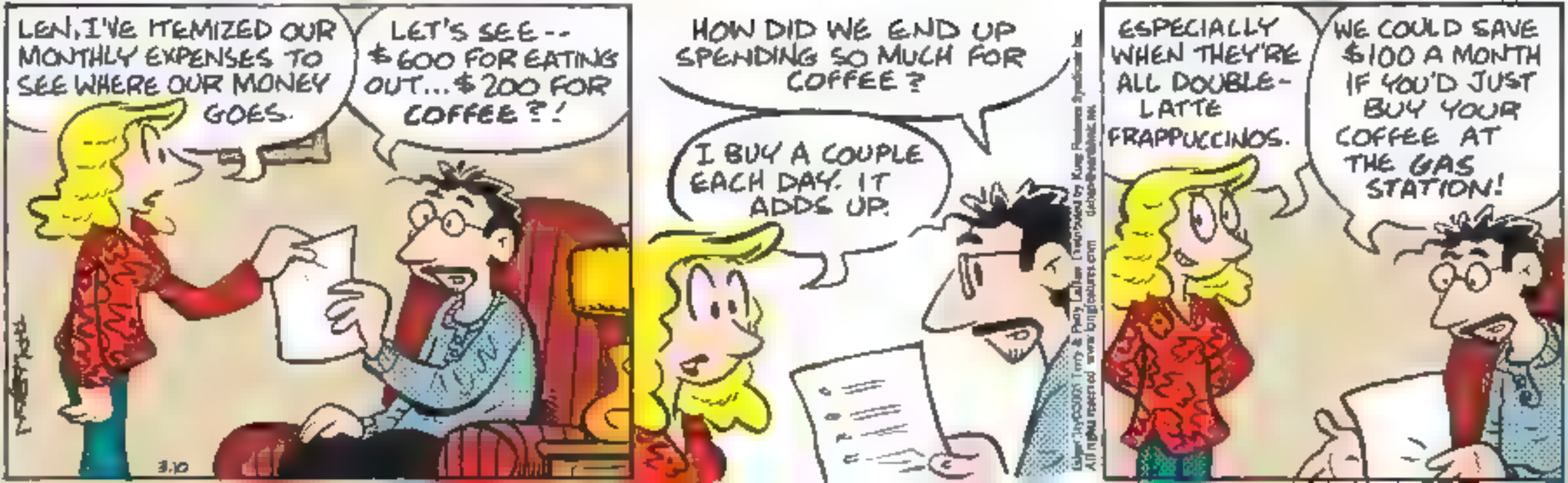
SO, ABBY-- THAT PSYCHIC WAS RIGHT! YOU WERE ASKED TO SPEAK AT THE NATIONAL THERAPISTS' CONFERENCE!
YEAH-- AFTER I SENT THEM A PROPOSAL.
THINK YOU'D TALK TO A PSYCHIC AGAIN?
I DON'T KNOW. WHAT HE SAID WOULD HAPPEN DID HAPPEN...
..BUT MAKING IT HAPPEN TOOK A LOT OF COMMITMENT!

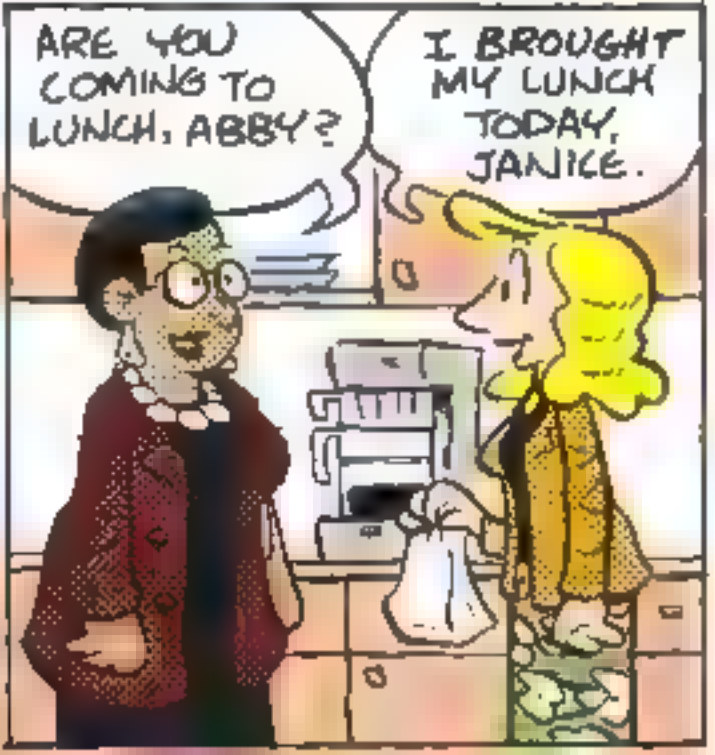

MY PARENTS ARE COMING OVER TONIGHT.
WHAT FOR?
YOU KNOW HOW MY MOM IS INTO SCRAPBOOKING?
THOSE ELABORATE BOOKS SHE MAKES TO RECORD ALL OUR FAMILY ACTIVITIES? SURE.
WELL, APPARENTLY SCRAPBOOKS AREN'T ENOUGH ANYMORE.
OH, BOY. WHAT'S SHE UP TO NOW?
SHE GOT FUNDING FOR A DOCUMENTARY.
OK, YOU GUYS! JUST PRETEND LIKE WE'RE NOT EVEN HERE!


WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS PLAN TO PRIVATIZE SOCIAL SECURITY?
IT SOUNDS OK TO ME.
I'M SURE WE'D DO BETTER PUTTING OUR MONEY INTO STOCKS THAN RELYING ON THE GOVERNMENT!
HAVE YOU TAKEN A LOOK AT OUR LAST FINANCIAL STATEMENTS?
WELL, I'M ASSUMING EVERY YEAR WON'T BE LIKE THIS YEAR.
I'M SENDING A COPY TO OUR CONGRESSMAN...
3-7

I'VE BEEN LOOKING OVER OUR ACCOUNTS, LEN. I DON'T THINK WE'RE SAVING ENOUGH FOR OUR RETIREMENT.
HOW MUCH DID WE SAVE LAST YEAR?
WELL, TOTALING UP ALL OUR ACCOUNTS, WE PUT ASIDE EXACTLY...
...NEGATIVE $2000.
RIGHT--WE BORROWED A LITTLE FOR OUR LAST VACATION...
3.8


WE'VE REALLY GOT TO SAVE MORE FOR OUR RETIREMENT, LEN. MAYBE WE SHOULD GO ON A BUDGET.
WE WASTE A LOT OF MONEY ON THINGS WE DON'T NEED!
SUCH AS?
WHAT DID YOU SPEND LAST MONTH ON TCHOTCHKES FROM EBAY?
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE $50.
IF WE SAVED THAT, BY THE END OF THE YEAR WE'D HAVE $600!
BUT I NEED MY TCHOTCHKES!


LEN, I'VE ITEMIZED OUR MONTHLY EXPENSES TO SEE WHERE OUR MONEY GOES.
LET'S SEE -- $600 FOR EATING OUT... $200 FOR COFFEE?!
3.10
HOW DID WE END UP SPENDING SO MUCH FOR COFFEE?
I BUY A COUPLE EACH DAY. IT ADDS UP.
ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE ALL DOUBLE-LATTE FRAPPUCCINOS.
WE COULD SAVE $100 A MONTH IF YOU'D JUST BUY YOUR COFFEE AT THE GAS STATION!



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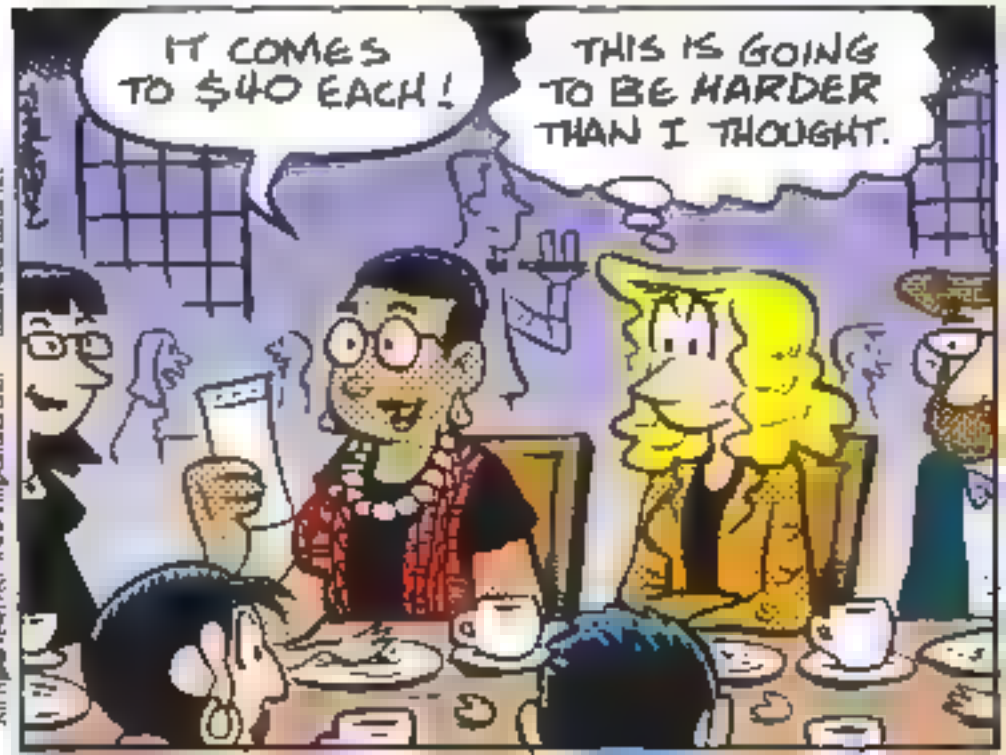


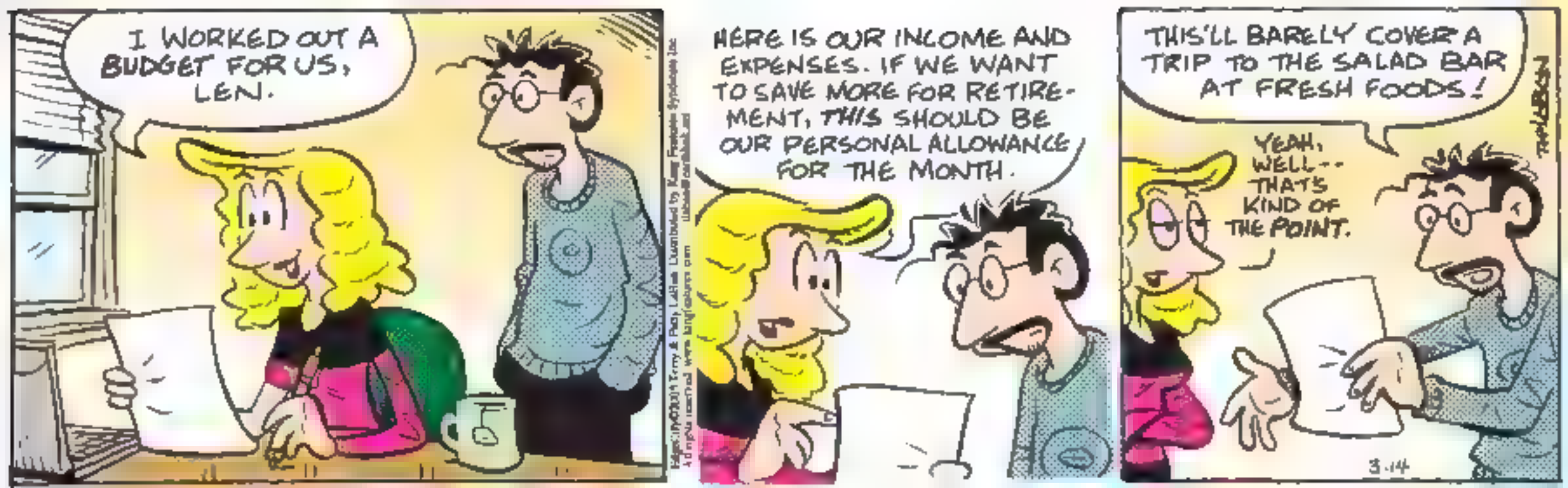
SIGH!
WHAT'S WRONG, LEN?
ABBY AND I ARE TRYING TO SAVE MORE MONEY, SO I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BUY STUFF ON EBAY ANYMORE.
ISN'T THAT EBAY THERE?
TOMLINSON 3-12
I FIGURE THAT AS LONG AS I DON'T WIN ANYTHING, I CAN STILL BID!
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU--YOU'RE DISCIPLINED!
CLICK!

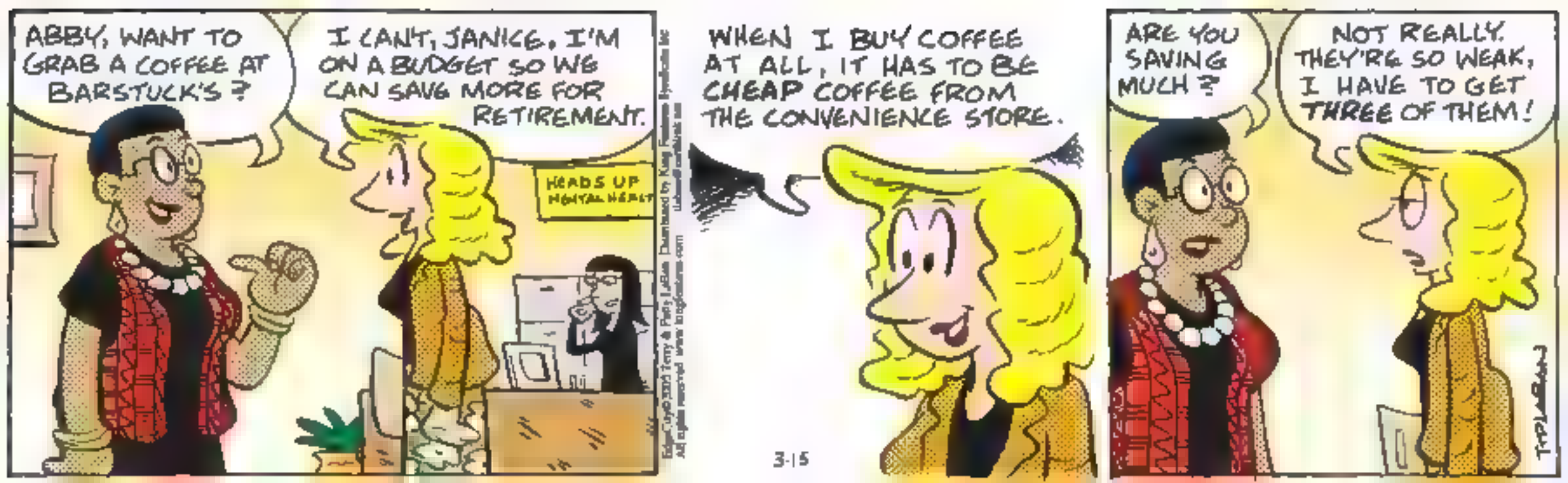
Y'KNOW, ABBY-- I'M CONCERNED ABOUT HOW SECRETIVE THE GOVERNMENT'S GETTING!

THERE ARE THREATS OUT THERE. BUT PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATON IS A CRUCIAL PART OF DEMOCRACY!

I MEAN: HAVE YOU SEEN THE PAPER TODAY?
WHY? WAS THERE AN ARTICLE?

NO--NOT EXACTLY!
!
DAILY NEWS
WEEKEND EDITION
PRESIDENT MEETS WITH
NEWS LOTTO


I WORKED OUT A BUDGET FOR US, LEN.
HERE IS OUR INCOME AND EXPENSES. IF WE WANT TO SAVE MORE FOR RETIREMENT, THIS SHOULD BE OUR PERSONAL ALLOWANCE FOR THE MONTH.
THIS'LL BARELY COVER A TRIP TO THE SALAD BAR AT FRESH FOODS!
YEAH, WELL-- THAT'S KIND OF THE POINT.
3-14



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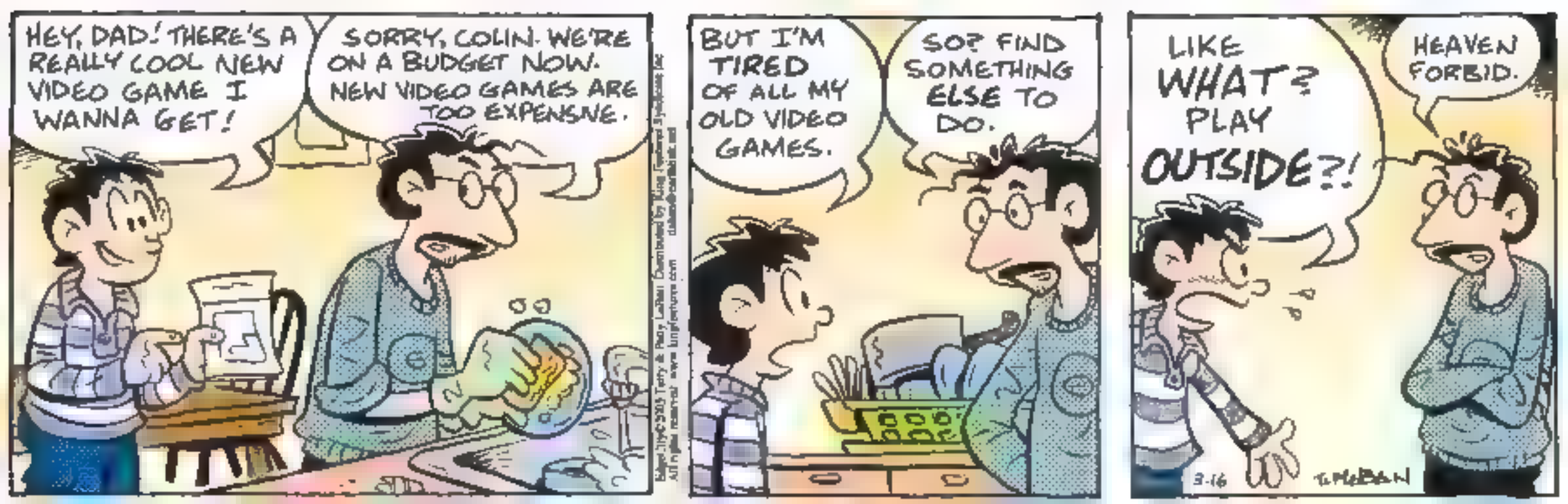
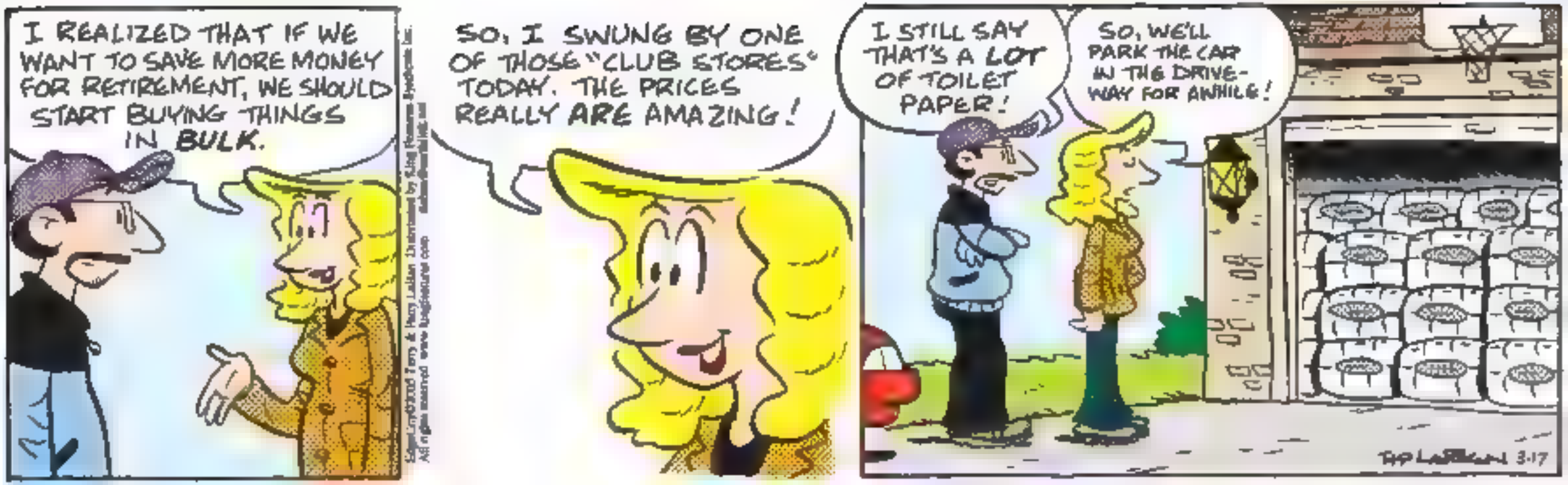
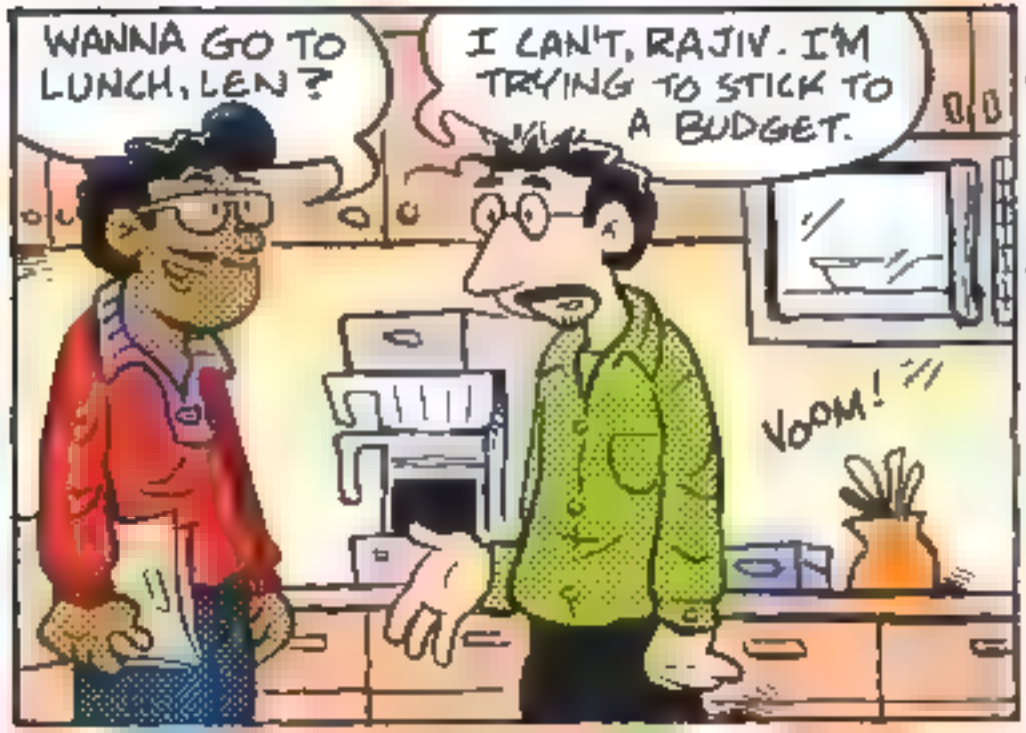

HEY, DAD! THERE'S A REALLY COOL NEW VIDEO GAME I WANNA GET!
SORRY, COLIN. WE'RE ON A BUDGET NOW. NEW VIDEO GAMES ARE TOO EXPENSIVE.
BUT I'M TIRED OF ALL MY OLD VIDEO GAMES.
SO? FIND SOMETHING ELSE TO DO.
LIKE WHAT? PLAY OUTSIDE?!
HEAVEN FORBID.
3-16
T. McBAN


I REALIZED THAT IF WE WANT TO SAVE MORE MONEY FOR RETIREMENT, WE SHOULD START BUYING THINGS IN BULK.
SO, I SWUNG BY ONE OF THOSE "CLUB STORES" TODAY. THE PRICES REALLY ARE AMAZING!
I STILL SAY THAT'S A LOT OF TOILET PAPER!
SO, WE'LL PARK THE CAR IN THE DRIVE-WAY FOR AWHILE!
RIP LARKIN 3-17



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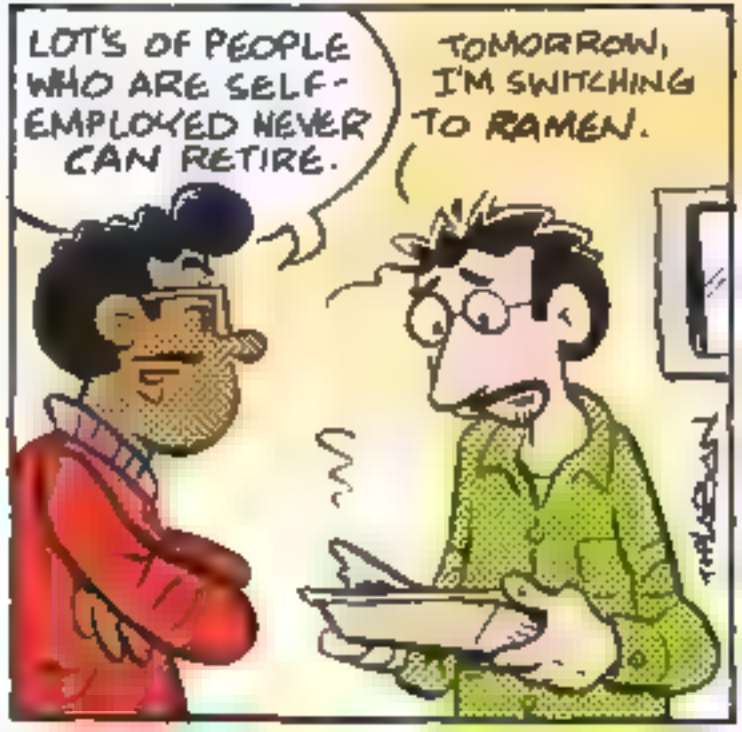
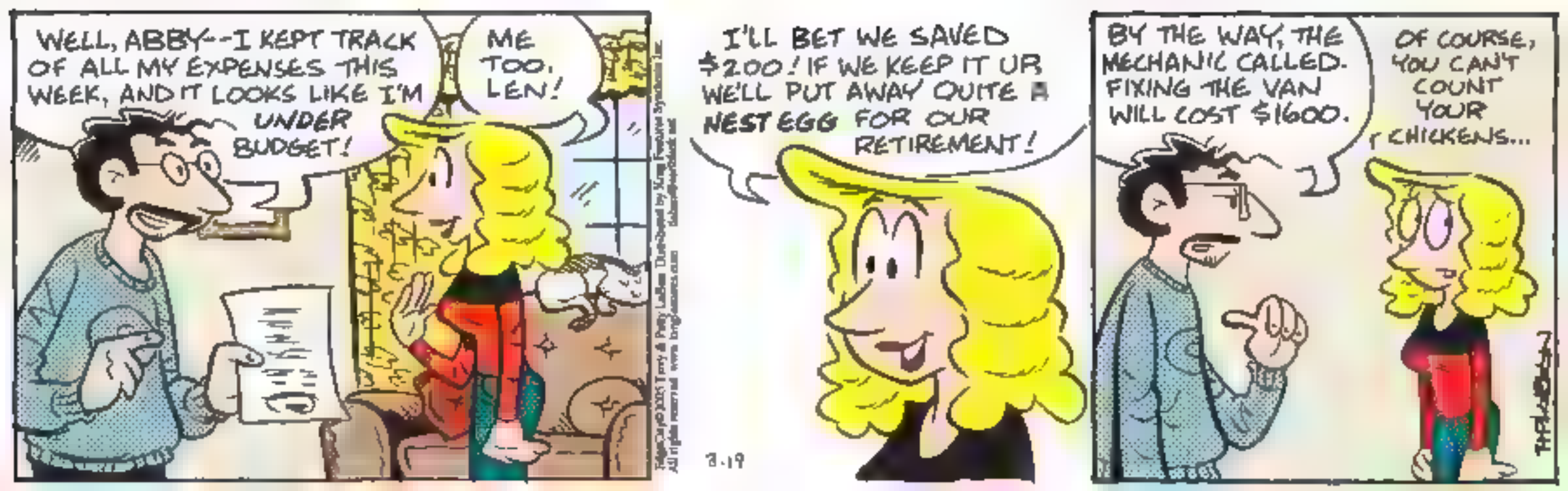
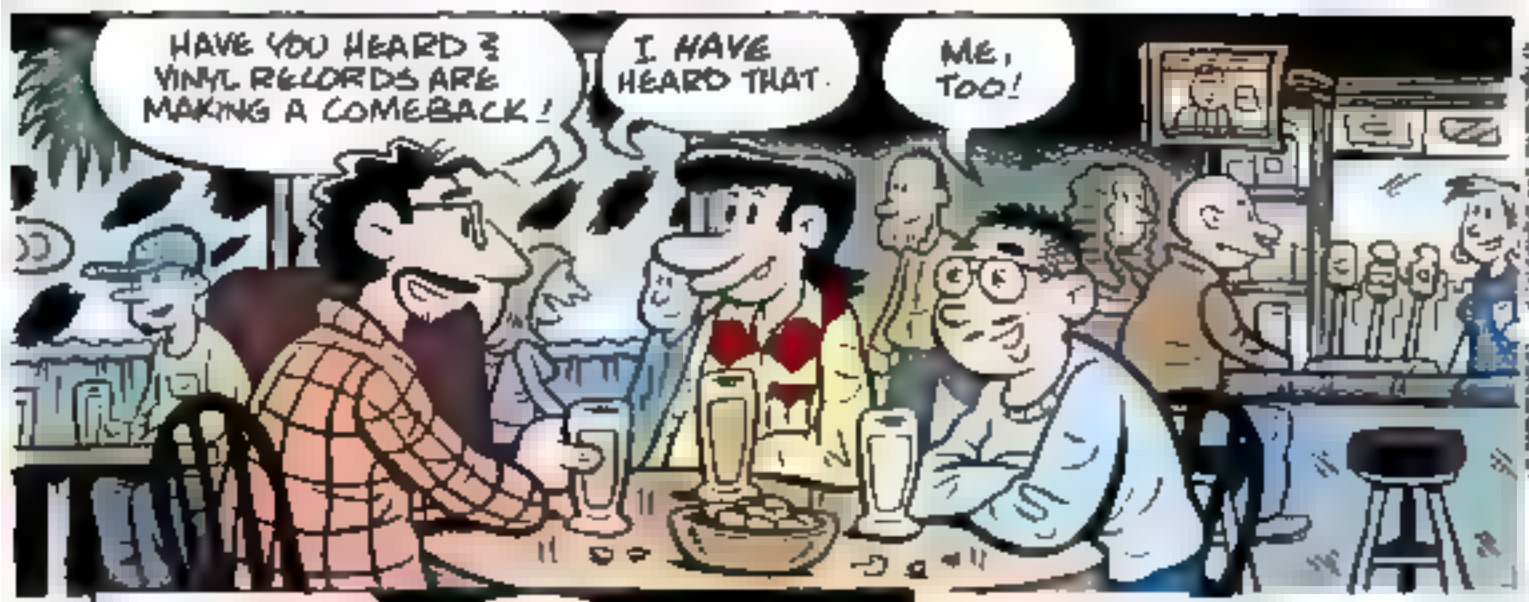
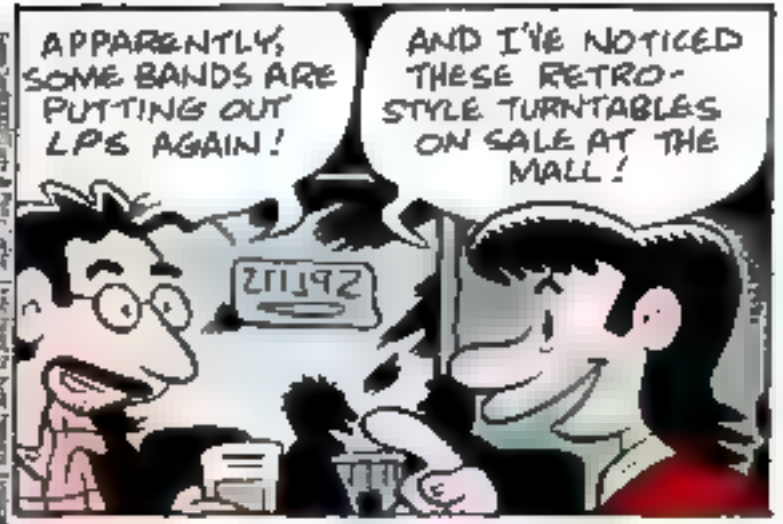
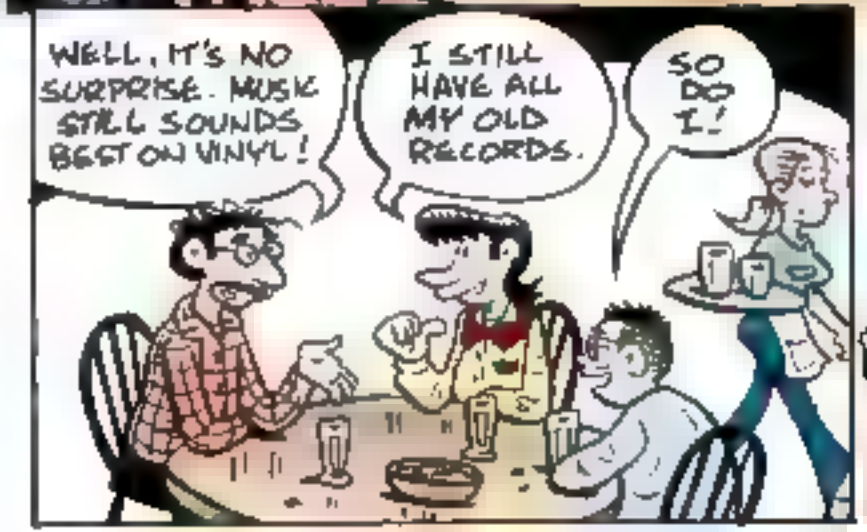
3-18



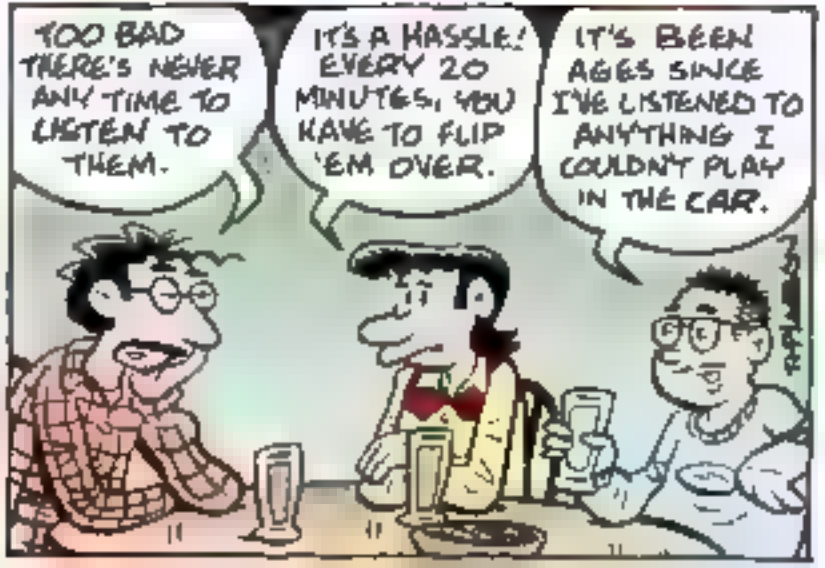

WELL, ABBY--I KEPT TRACK OF ALL MY EXPENSES THIS WEEK, AND IT LOOKS LIKE I'M UNDER BUDGET!
ME TOO, LEN!
I'LL BET WE SAVED $200! IF WE KEEP IT UP WE'LL PUT AWAY QUITE A NEST EGG FOR OUR RETIREMENT!
BY THE WAY, THE MECHANIC CALLED. FIXING THE VAN WILL COST $1600.
OF COURSE, YOU CAN'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS...


HAVE YOU HEARD VINYL RECORDS ARE MAKING A COMEBACK!
I HAVE HEARD THAT.
ME, TOO!

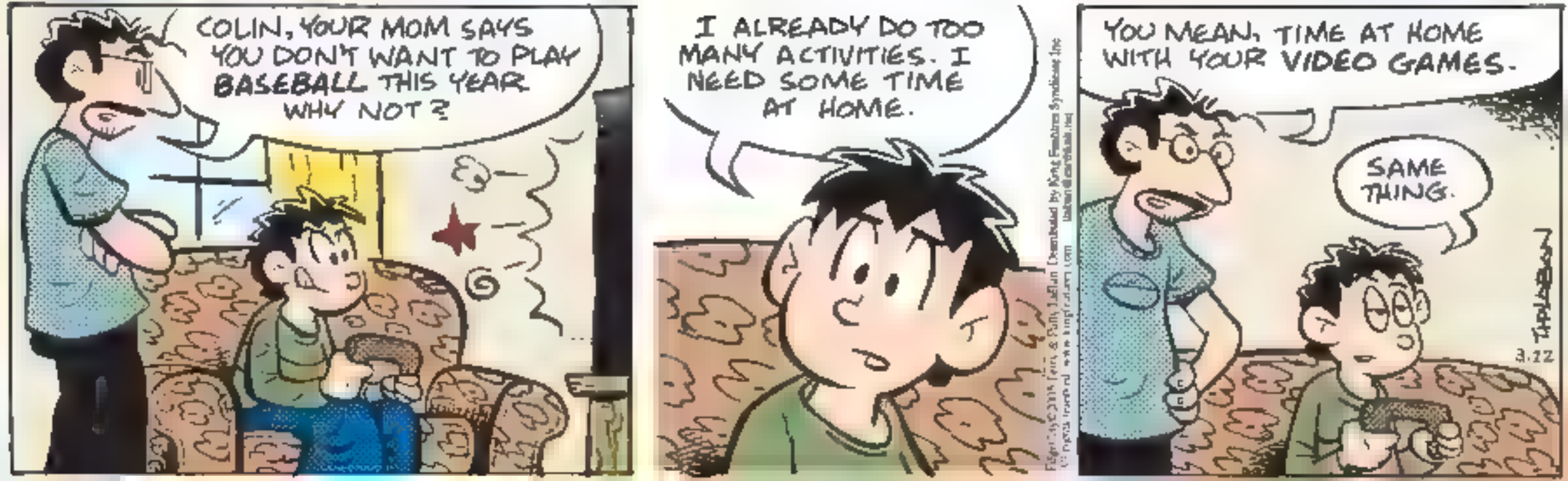

APPARENTLY, SOME BANDS ARE PUTTING OUT LPS AGAIN!
AND I'VE NOTICED THESE RETRO-STYLE TURNTABLES ON SALE AT THE MALL!

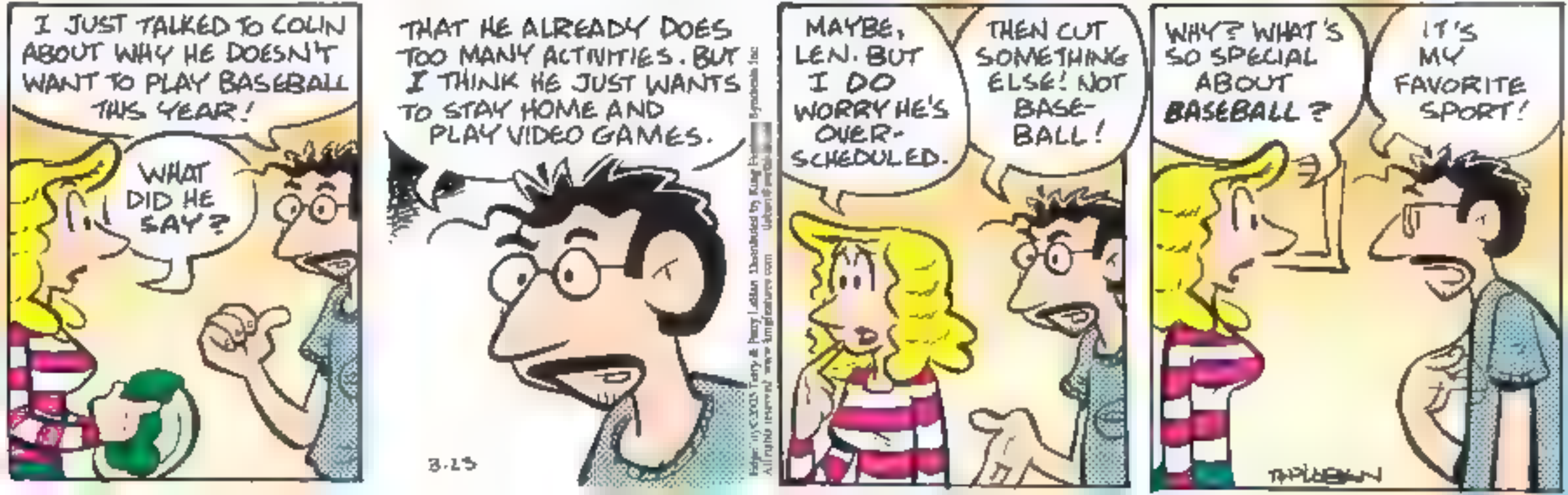

WELL, IT'S NO SURPRISE. MUSIC STILL SOUNDS BEST ON VINYL!
I STILL HAVE ALL MY OLD RECORDS.
SO DO I!

HERE'S TO LPS!
LPS RULE!
HEAR HEAR!
CLINK!


TOO BAD THERE'S NEVER ANY TIME TO LISTEN TO THEM.
IT'S A HASSLE! EVERY 20 MINUTES, YOU HAVE TO FLIP 'EM OVER.
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I'VE LISTENED TO ANYTHING I COULDN'T PLAY IN THE CAR.

WE JUST GOT THE SIGN-UP FORM FOR COLIN TO PLAY BASEBALL THIS YEAR.
OH, GOOD!
THE PROBLEM IS, HE SAYS HE DOESN'T WANT TO PLAY!
WHAT?
8-21
YOU DON'T WANT TO PLAY BASEBALL? HOW COME?
HOLD ON! I'VE ALMOST KILLED ALL THE CYBORGS IN SECTOR G!


COLIN, YOUR MOM SAYS YOU DON'T WANT TO PLAY BASEBALL THIS YEAR. WHY NOT?
I ALREADY DO TOO MANY ACTIVITIES. I NEED SOME TIME AT HOME.
YOU MEAN, TIME AT HOME WITH YOUR VIDEO GAMES.
SAME THING.
THABEAN
3.22


I JUST TALKED TO COLIN ABOUT WHY HE DOESN'T WANT TO PLAY BASEBALL THIS YEAR!
WHAT DID HE SAY?
THAT HE ALREADY DOES TOO MANY ACTIVITIES. BUT I THINK HE JUST WANTS TO STAY HOME AND PLAY VIDEO GAMES.
3-25
MAYBE, LEN. BUT I DO WORRY HE'S OVER-SCHEDULED.
THEN CUT SOMETHING ELSE! NOT BASE-BALL!
WHY? WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT BASEBALL?
IT'S MY FAVORITE SPORT!

LEN, IF COLIN DOESN'T WANT TO PLAY BASEBALL THIS YEAR, MAYBE HE SHOULD TAKE A BREAK!
I DISAGREE, ABBY.

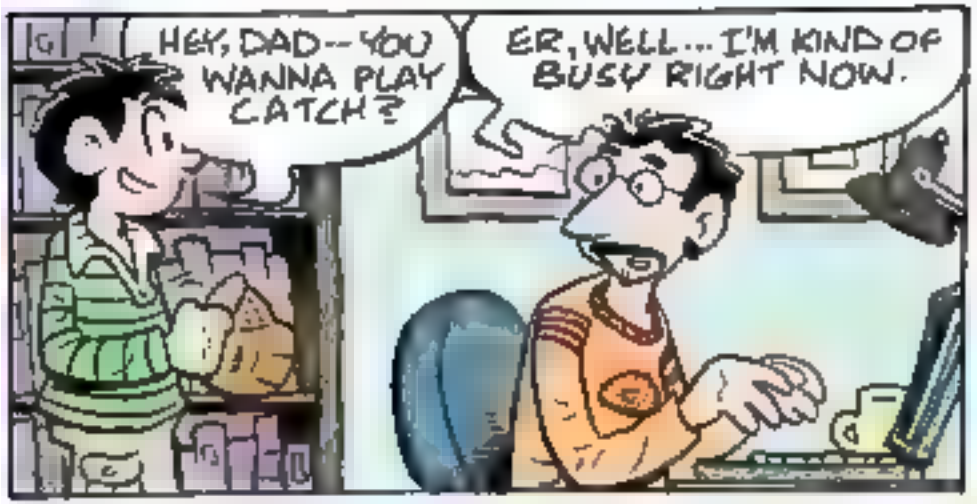
HE NEEDS THE EXERCISE. PLUS, IT'S GOOD FOR HIM TO PLAY ON A TEAM!
3-24

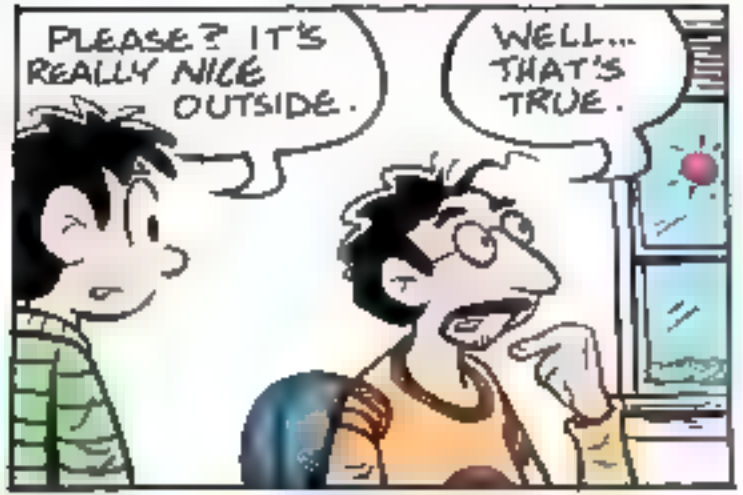
BUT IF WE FORCE HIM TO PLAY, HE MIGHT COME TO HATE IT! IT COULD AFFECT HIM FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!

HEY, THE THERAPISTS OF THE FUTURE WILL NEED WORK, TOO!
THAT'S NOT REALLY THE POINT.

I STILL DON'T THINK WE SHOULD FORCE COLIN TO PLAY BASEBALL!
WELL, HE SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO SIT AND PLAY VIDEO GAMES INSTEAD!
LET'S GIVE HIM A CHOICE, OKAY?
HE DOESN'T HAVE TO PLAY. BUT IF HE DECIDES NOT TO, HE'LL GIVE UP VIDEO GAMES TILL AFTER THE PLAYOFFS!
I'M NOT SURE WE CAN BE THAT TOUGH!
LOOK, ARE YOU WITH ME OR NOT?
3.25

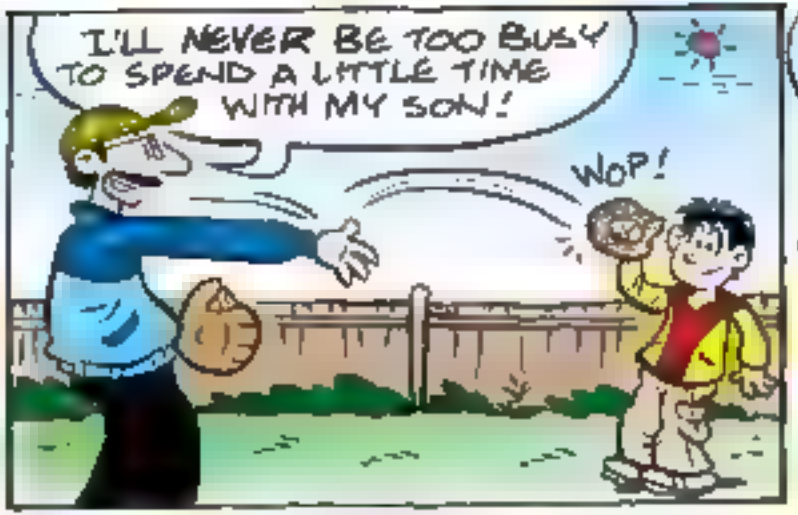
COLIN, YOUR MOM AND I HAVE DECIDED THAT IF YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO PLAY BASEBALL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
YAY!
BUT WE DON'T WANT YOU TO JUST SIT AT HOME PLAYING VIDEO GAMES. SO, YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE THEM UP FOR THE DURATION OF THE SEASON.
AAAAGH!!
WANNA THINK IT OVER?
3-26


HEY, DAD -- YOU WANNA PLAY CATCH?
ER, WELL... I'M KIND OF BUSY RIGHT NOW.


PLEASE? IT'S REALLY NICE OUTSIDE.
WELL... THAT'S TRUE.

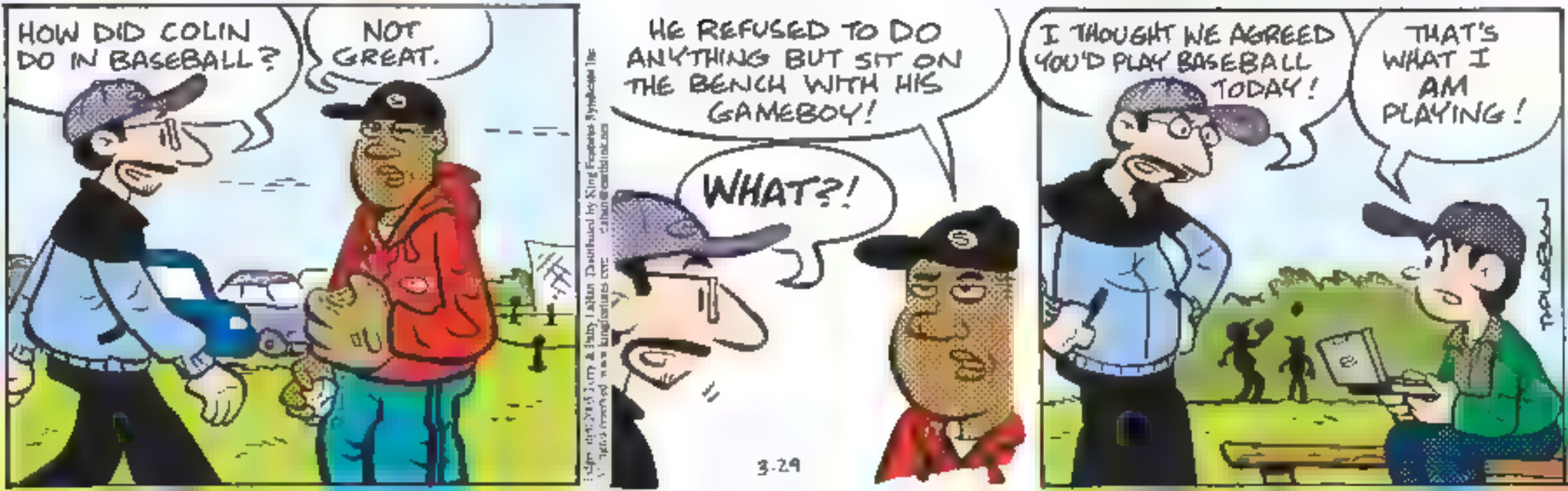
IT'S THE KIND OF DAY YOU ALWAYS TELL ME NOT TO WASTE INDOORS!
3.27

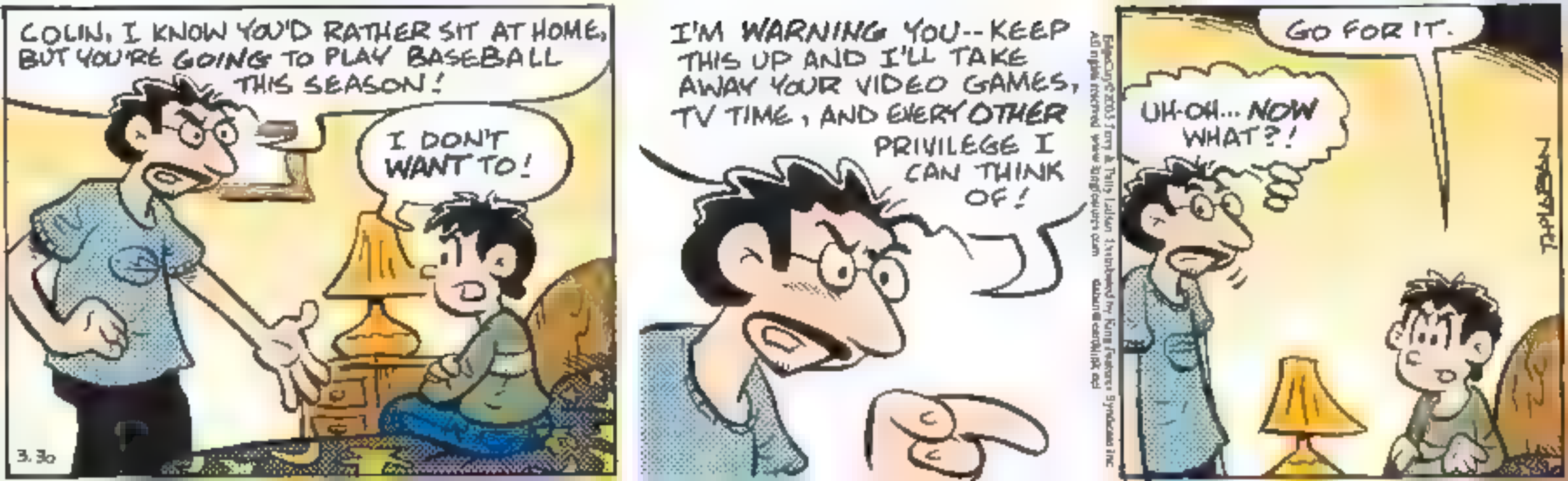
YOU'RE RIGHT, COLIN! LET'S GO!

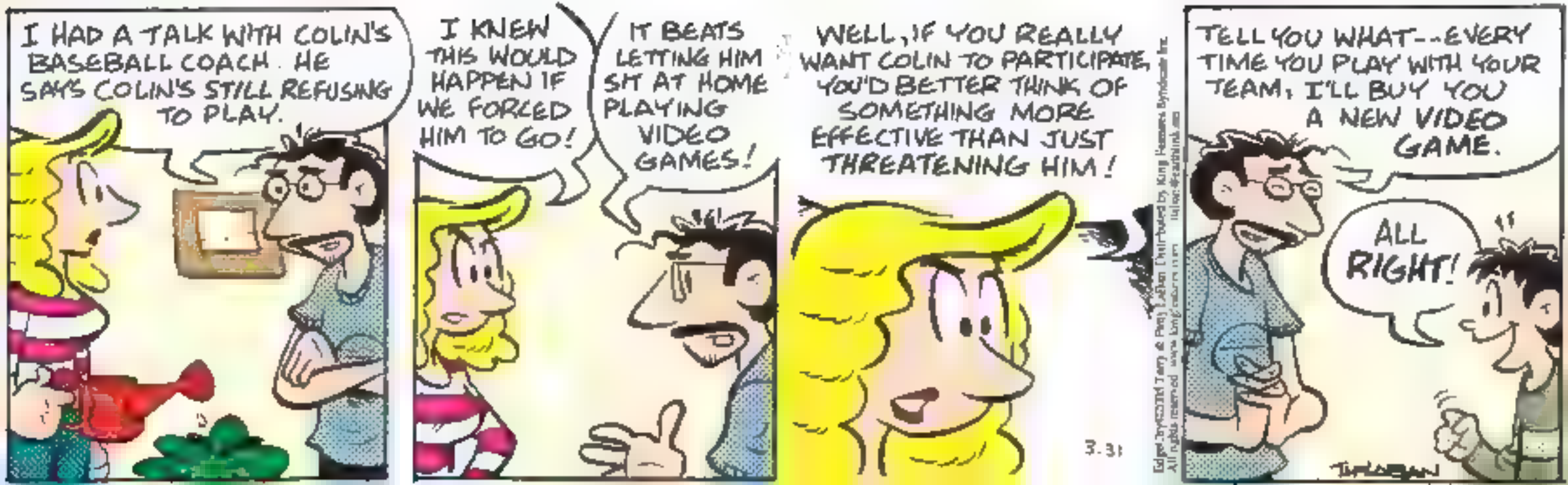

I'LL NEVER BE TOO BUSY TO SPEND A LITTLE TIME WITH MY SON!
WOP!

COLIN, DID YOU FINISH YOUR SCHOOL PROJECT LIKE I TOLD YOU TO?
I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE. DAD WANTED TO PLAY CATCH.
!

THIS IS COLIN ARDIN.
HI, COLIN. I'M WALLY.. I'LL BE YOUR COACH!
COLIN WAS A LITTLE RELUCTANT TO PLAY BASEBALL THIS YEAR.
THAT'S OK! WE'LL HAVE FUN ONCE WE GET STARTED. RIGHT, COLIN?
HUMPH!
3.28
OF COURSE, NOT EVERYONE WORKS OUT...
JUST A SECOND.. LET ME THREATEN HIM AGAIN!

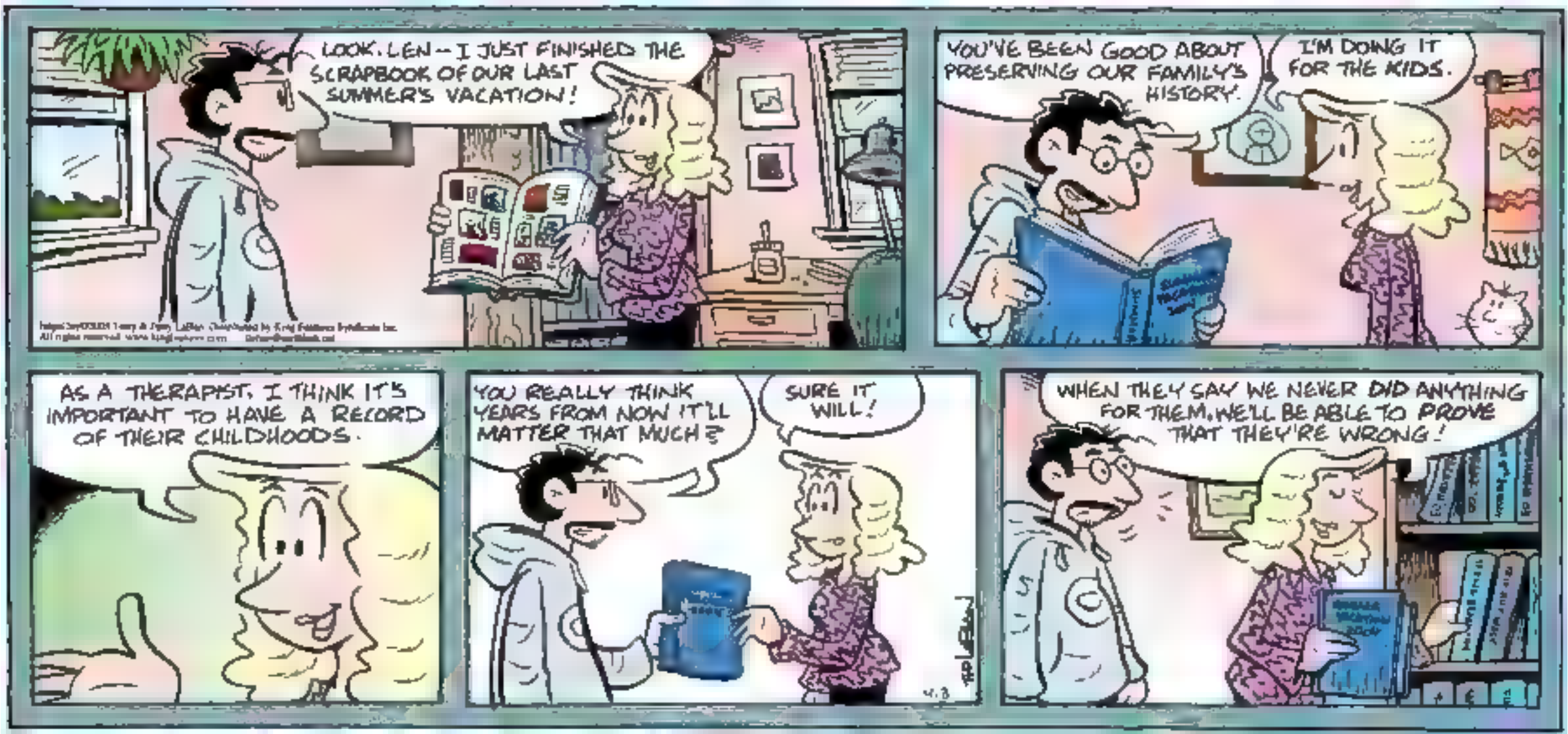

HOW DID COLIN DO IN BASEBALL?
NOT GREAT.
HE REFUSED TO DO ANYTHING BUT SIT ON THE BENCH WITH HIS GAMEBOY!
WHAT?!
3-29
I THOUGHT WE AGREED YOU'D PLAY BASEBALL TODAY!
THAT'S WHAT I AM PLAYING!

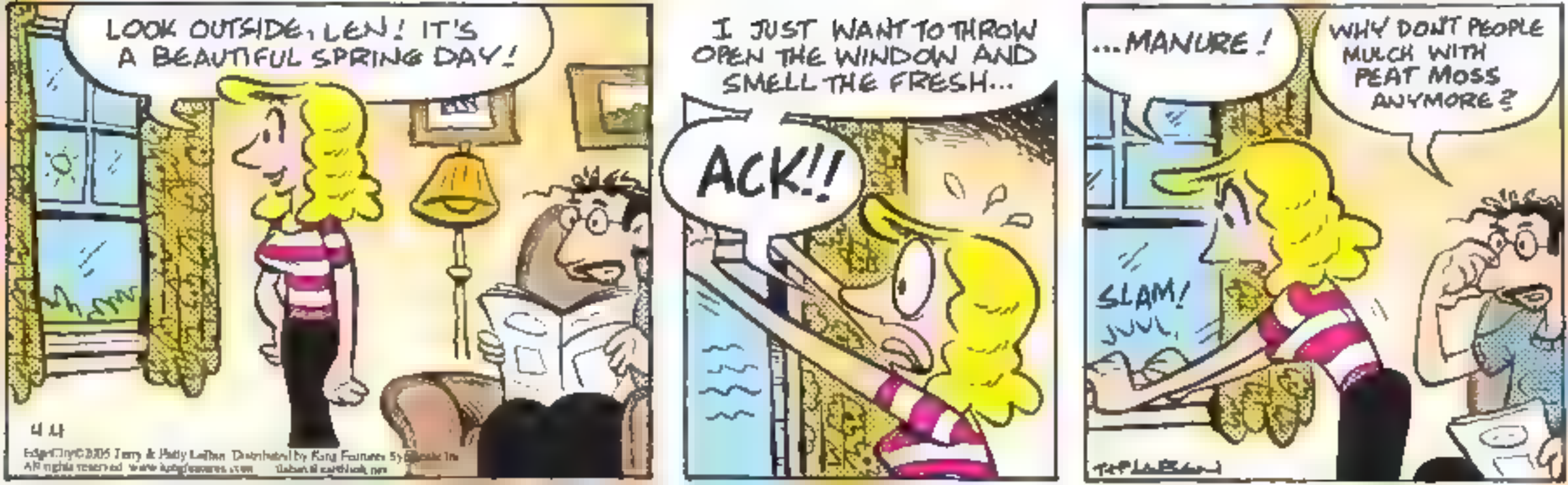

COLIN, I KNOW YOU'D RATHER SIT AT HOME, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY BASEBALL THIS SEASON!
I DON'T WANT TO!
3.30
I'M WARNING YOU--KEEP THIS UP AND I'LL TAKE AWAY YOUR VIDEO GAMES, TV TIME, AND EVERY OTHER PRIVILEGE I CAN THINK OF!
GO FOR IT.
UH-OH... NOW WHAT?!

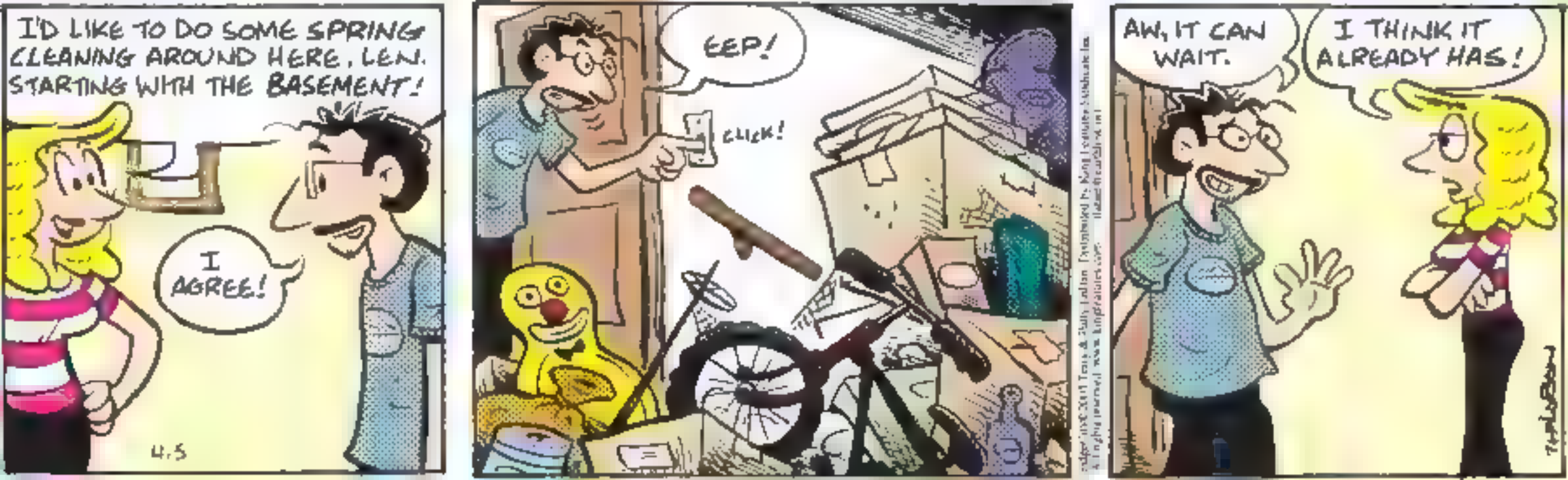

I HAD A TALK WITH COLIN'S BASEBALL COACH. HE SAYS COLIN'S STILL REFUSING TO PLAY.
I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN IF WE FORCED HIM TO GO!
IT BEATS LETTING HIM SIT AT HOME PLAYING VIDEO GAMES!
WELL, IF YOU REALLY WANT COLIN TO PARTICIPATE, YOU'D BETTER THINK OF SOMETHING MORE EFFECTIVE THAN JUST THREATENING HIM!
3-31
TELL YOU WHAT--EVERY TIME YOU PLAY WITH YOUR TEAM, I'LL BUY YOU A NEW VIDEO GAME.
ALL RIGHT!

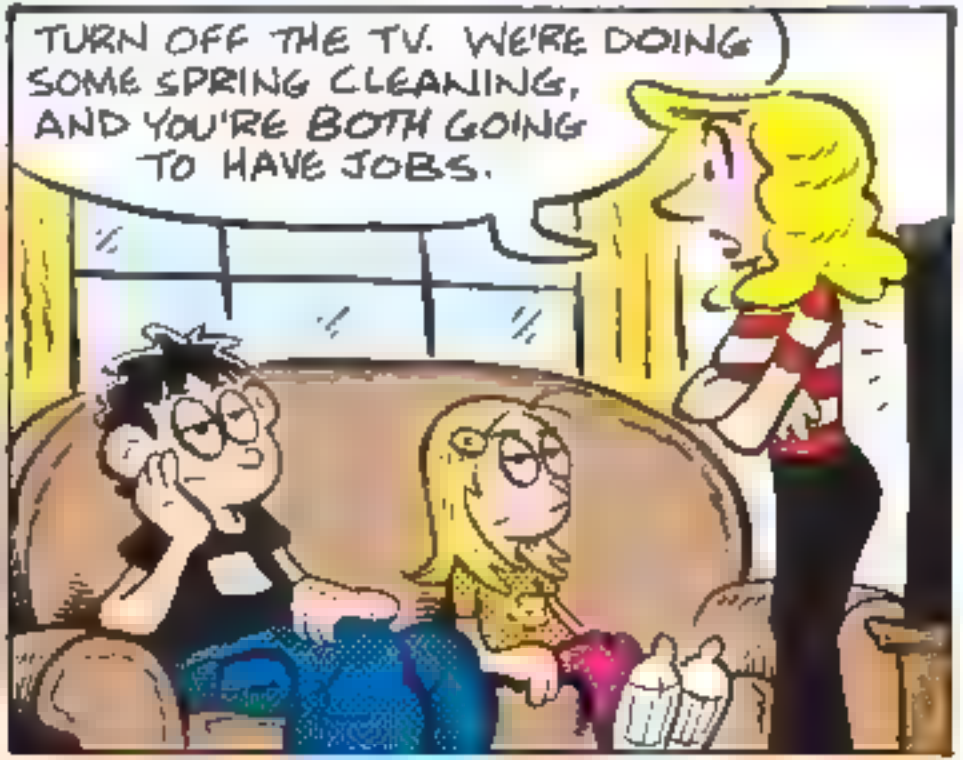
HI, LEN. COLIN HAD A GREAT BASEBALL PRACTICE TODAY!
REALLY? I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.
HOW DID YOU FINALLY CONVINCE HIM TO PLAY?
WELL, THREATS WEREN'T WORKING, SO WE DECIDED TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE.
I PLAYED TODAY, DAD. WHEN DO I GET MY NEW VIDEO GAME?

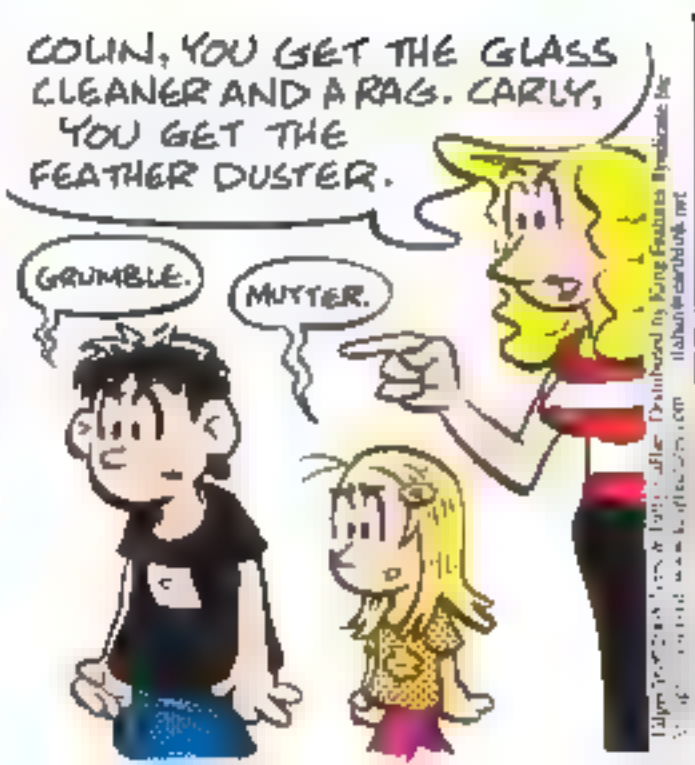
COLIN'S FINALLY PLAYING BASEBALL WITH HIS TEAM.
YEAH-- BUT WE HAD TO BRIBE HIM WITH VIDEO GAMES!
I'M AFRAID HE'S LEARNING THAT ALL HE HAS TO DO TO GET WHAT HE WANTS IS DIG IN HIS HEELS AND REFUSE TO COMPROMISE!
SO, HE'LL HAVE A GREAT FUTURE IN POLITICS.
OY!


LOOK, LEN -- I JUST FINISHED THE SCRAPBOOK OF OUR LAST SUMMER'S VACATION!
YOU'VE BEEN GOOD ABOUT PRESERVING OUR FAMILY'S HISTORY.
I'M DOING IT FOR THE KIDS.
AS A THERAPIST, I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE A RECORD OF THEIR CHILDHOODS.
YOU REALLY THINK YEARS FROM NOW IT'LL MATTER THAT MUCH?
SURE IT WILL!
WHEN THEY SAY WE NEVER DID ANYTHING FOR THEM, WE'LL BE ABLE TO PROVE THAT THEY'RE WRONG!


LOOK OUTSIDE, LEN! IT'S A BEAUTIFUL SPRING DAY!
I JUST WANT TO THROW OPEN THE WINDOW AND SMELL THE FRESH...
ACK!!
...MANURE!
WHY DON'T PEOPLE MULCH WITH PEAT MOSS ANYMORE?
SLAM!


I'D LIKE TO DO SOME SPRING CLEANING AROUND HERE, LEN. STARTING WITH THE BASEMENT!
I AGREE!
EEP!
CLICK!
AW, IT CAN WAIT.
I THINK IT ALREADY HAS!

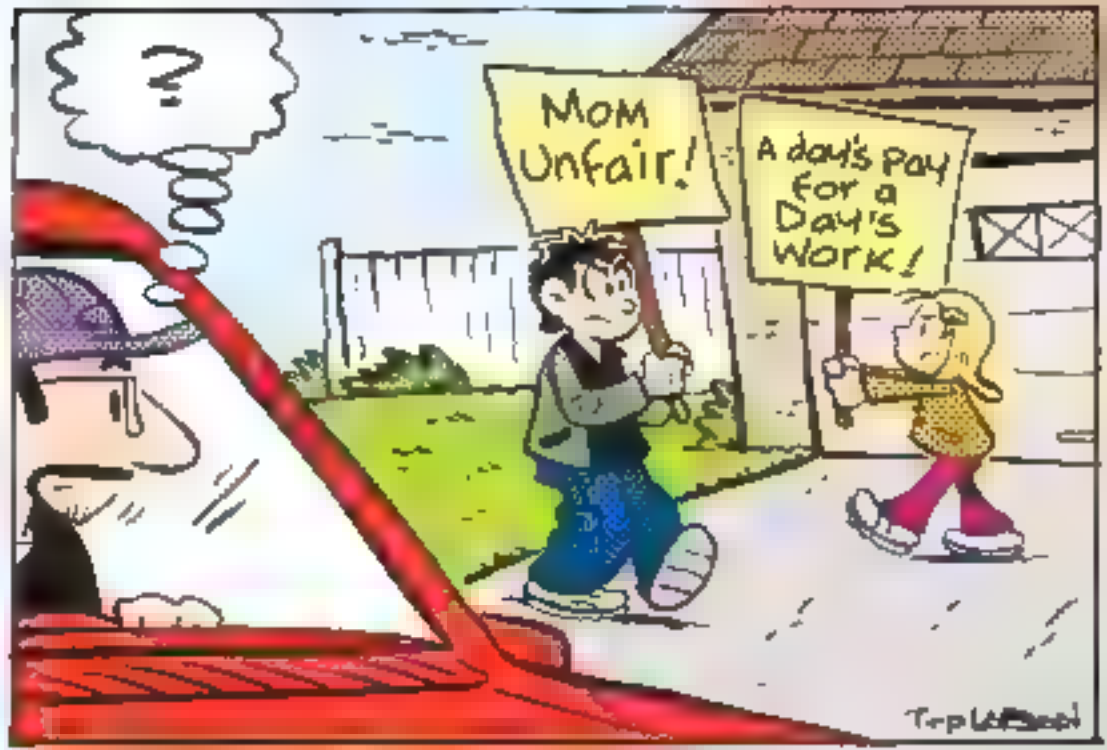

TURN OFF THE TV. WE'RE DOING SOME SPRING CLEANING, AND YOU'RE BOTH GOING TO HAVE JOBS.

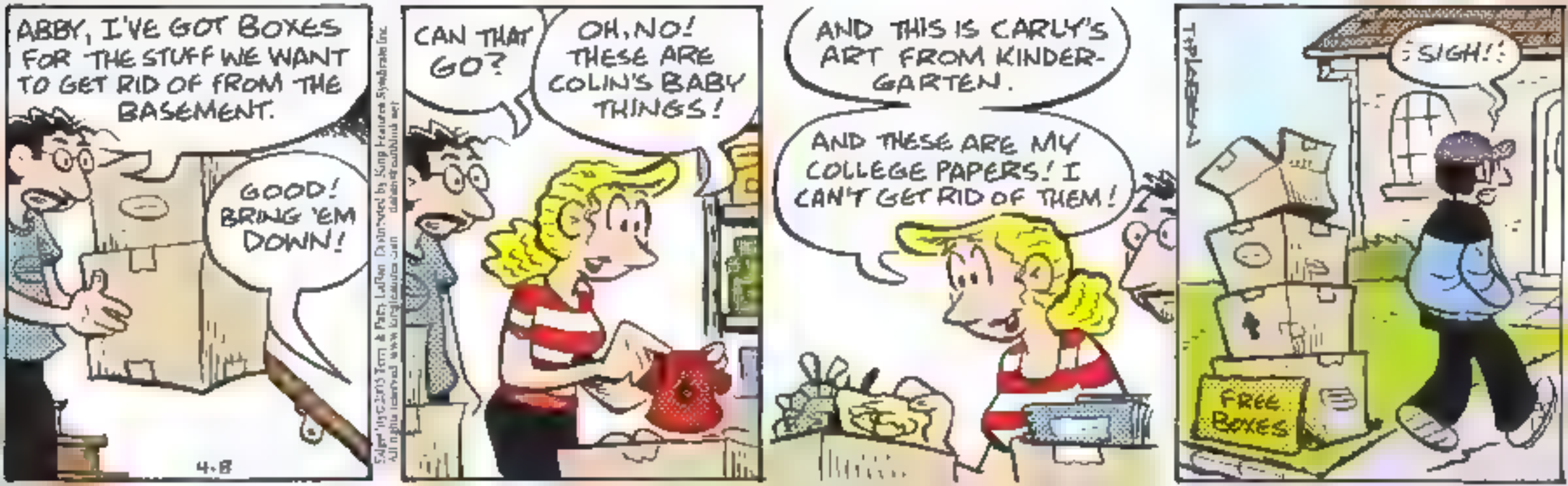

COLIN, YOU GET THE GLASS CLEANER AND A RAG. CARLY, YOU GET THE FEATHER DUSTER.
GRUMBLE.
MUTTER.

HERE. CAN WE WATCH MORE TV NOW?
THOSE WEREN'T THE JOBS, YOU GUYS!
4-6
T. PLOUGAN

WE'RE DOING SOME CLEANING AROUND HERE. YOU BOTH NEED TO HELP OUT!
WILL WE GET PAID?

IF YOU DO A GOOD JOB, YOU'LL EACH GET $5.
$5?
THAT'S ALL?


?
MOM Unfair!
A dol's pay for a Day's Work!


ABBY, I'VE GOT BOXES FOR THE STUFF WE WANT TO GET RID OF FROM THE BASEMENT.
GOOD! BRING 'EM DOWN!
4-8
CAN THAT GO?
OH, NO! THESE ARE COLIN'S BABY THINGS!
AND THIS IS CARLY'S ART FROM KINDER-GARTEN.
AND THESE ARE MY COLLEGE PAPERS! I CAN'T GET RID OF THEM!
SIGH!
FREE BOXES

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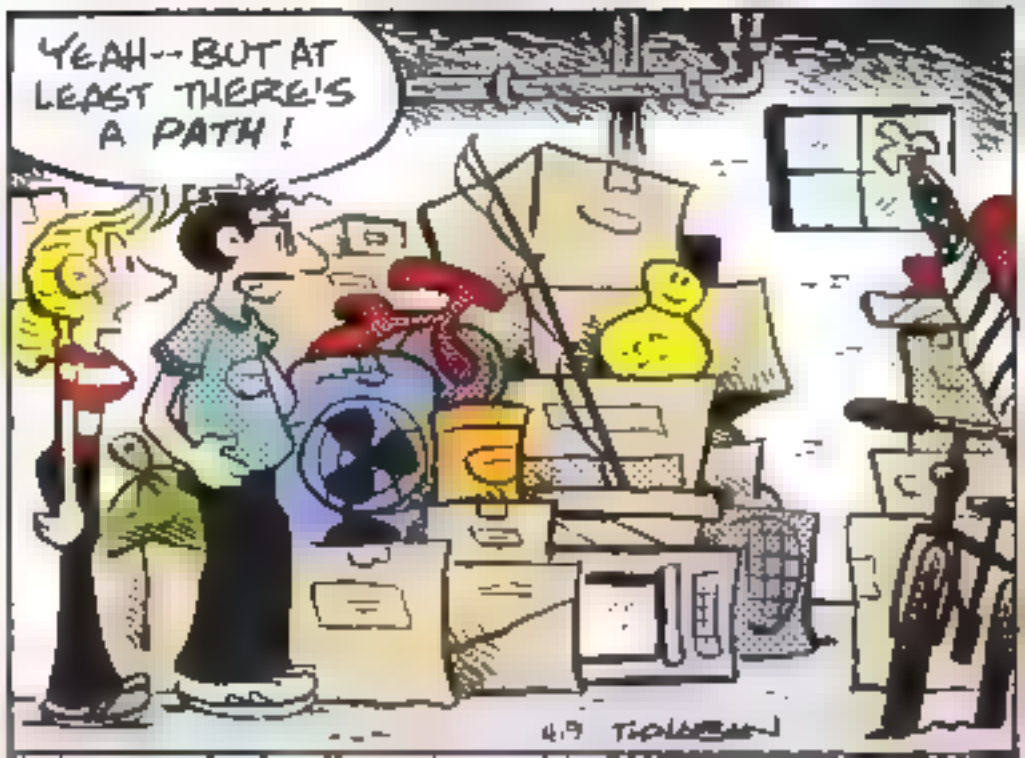
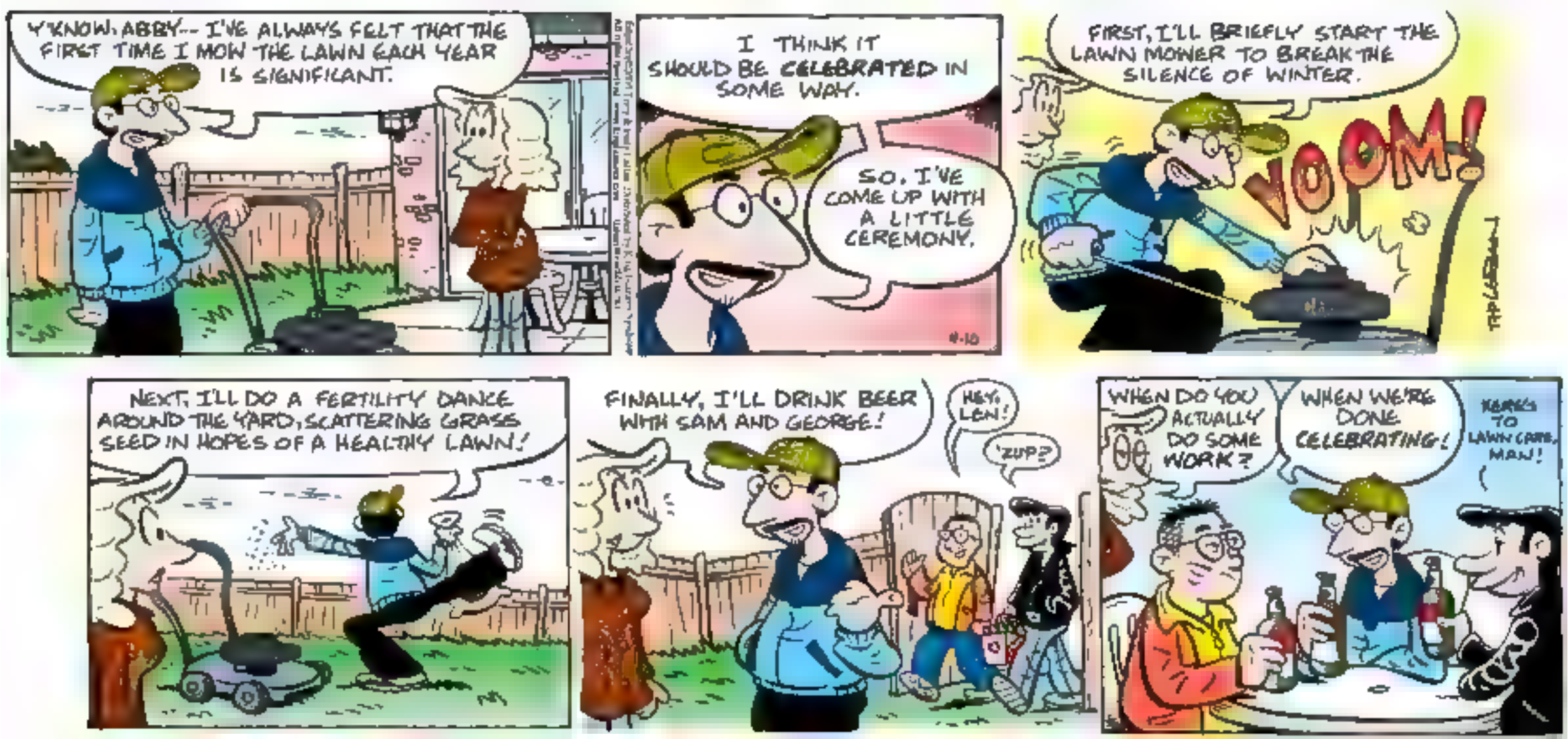
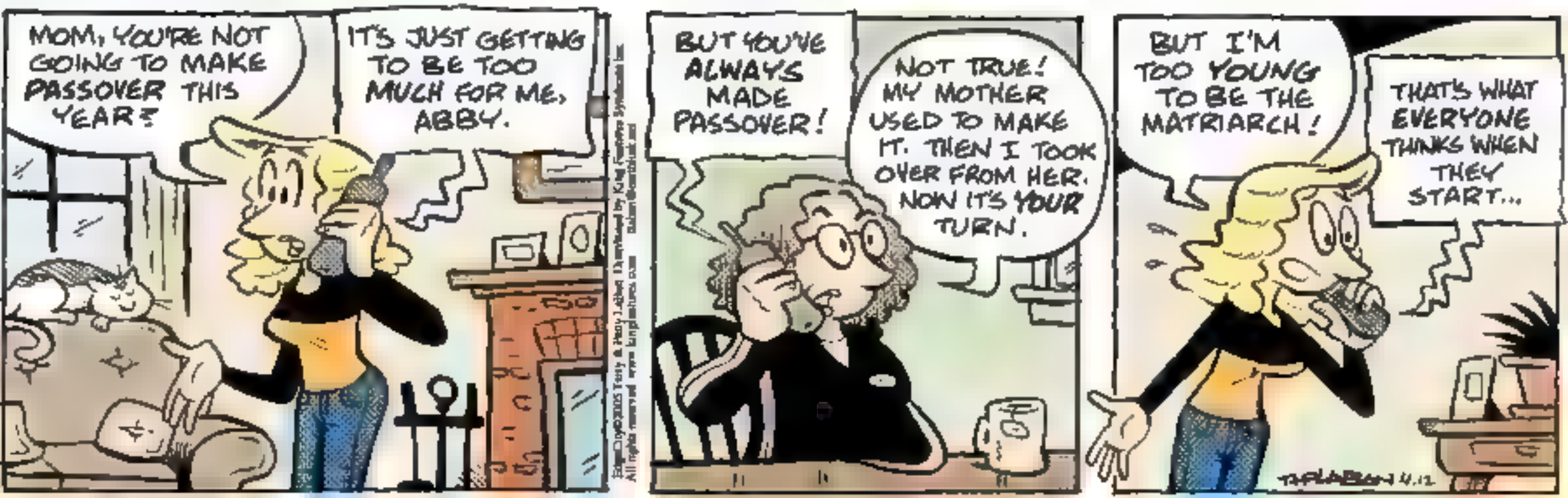



Y'KNOW, ABBY-- I'VE ALWAYS FELT THAT THE FIRST TIME I MOW THE LAWN EACH YEAR IS SIGNIFICANT.
I THINK IT SHOULD BE CELEBRATED IN SOME WAY.
SO, I'VE COME UP WITH A LITTLE CEREMONY.
FIRST, I'LL BRIEFLY START THE LAWN MOWER TO BREAK THE SILENCE OF WINTER.
VOOM!
NEXT, I'LL DO A FERTILITY DANCE AROUND THE YARD, SCATTERING GRASS SEED IN HOPES OF A HEALTHY LAWN!
FINALLY, I'LL DRINK BEER WITH SAM AND GEORGE!
HEY, LEN!
'ZUP?
WHEN DO YOU ACTUALLY DO SOME WORK?
WHEN WE'RE DONE CELEBRATING!
KEEPS TO LAWN CARE, MAN!

HI, MOM! PASSOVER'S COMING! HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE YOU HAVING THIS YEAR?
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THAT, ABBY.
PASSOVER'S GETTING TO BE TOO MUCH FOR ME—ALL THE CLEANING AND COOKING.
SO, I'VE DECIDED THIS YEAR NOT TO DO IT.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO IT?
HA! GOOD ONE! YOU SCARED ME THERE!
NO, REALLY!
4.11


MOM, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE PASSOVER THIS YEAR?
IT'S JUST GETTING TO BE TOO MUCH FOR ME, ABBY.
BUT YOU'VE ALWAYS MADE PASSOVER!
NOT TRUE! MY MOTHER USED TO MAKE IT. THEN I TOOK OVER FROM HER. NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.
BUT I'M TOO YOUNG TO BE THE MATRIARCH!
THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE THINKS WHEN THEY START...

YOU THINK I SHOULD HAVE THE PASSOVER SEDER AT MY HOUSE THIS YEAR, MOM?

I THINK IT'S TIME, ABBY.

I DON'T KNOW... I'M AWFULLY BUSY, AND IT'D BE A LOT OF WORK!

I'LL HELP OUT, OF COURSE!

WELL... I GUESS I'LL FIND A WAY TO MAKE THE TIME. PASSOVER IS IMPORTANT.

BRAVO!

4-13

OH, NO... WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

BEEP!

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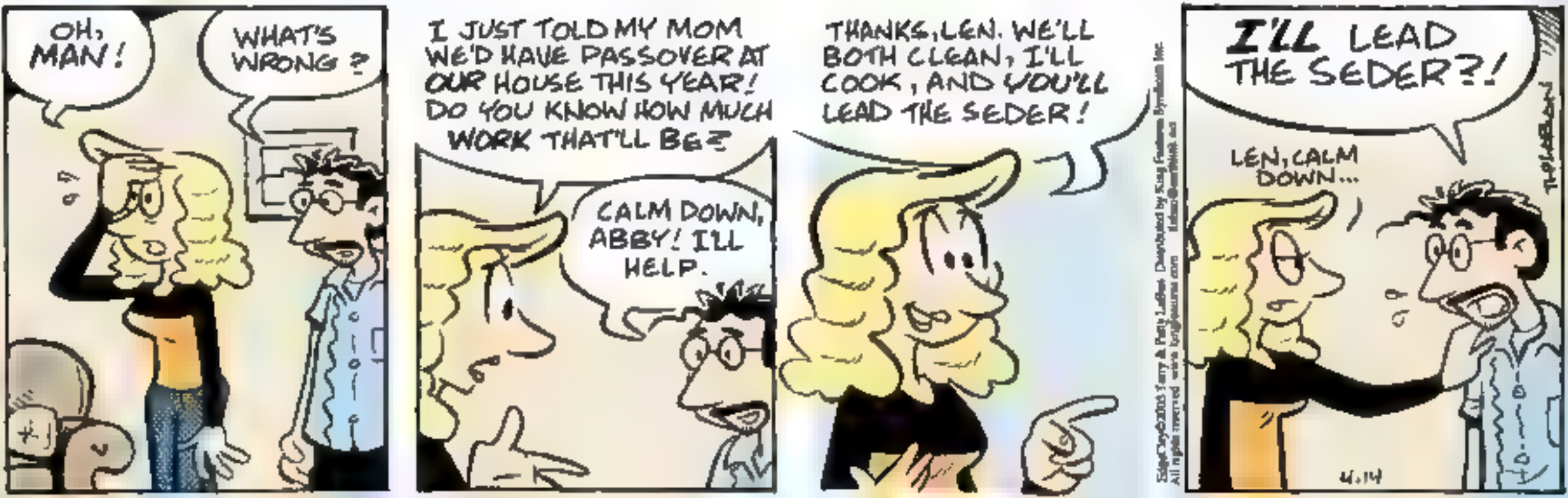
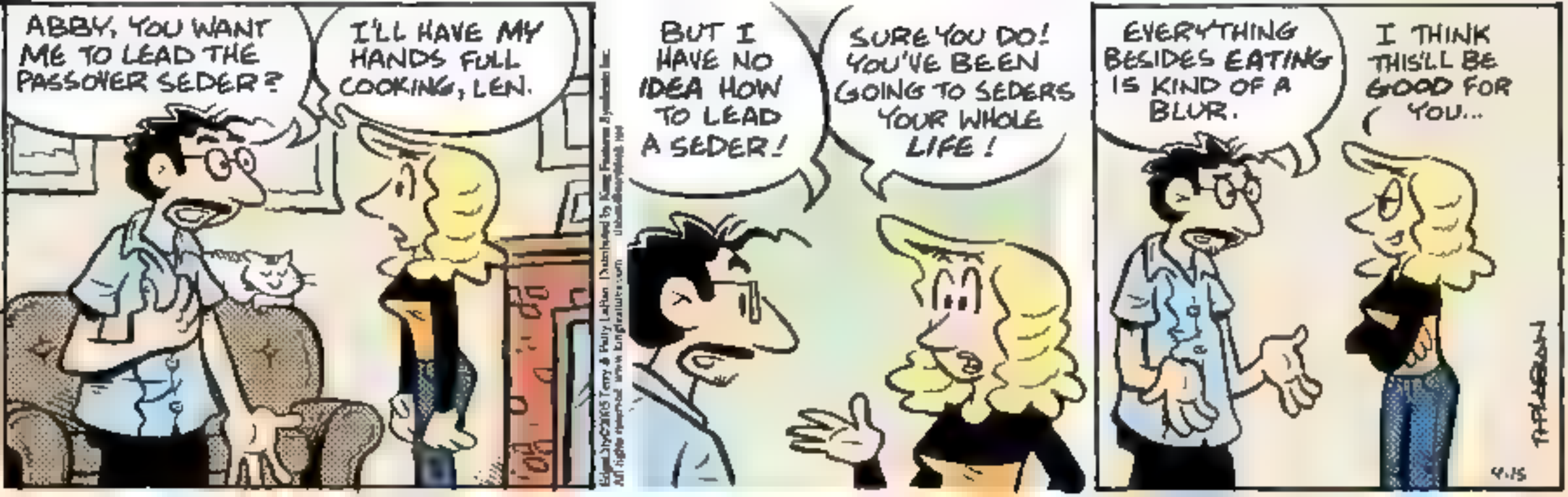
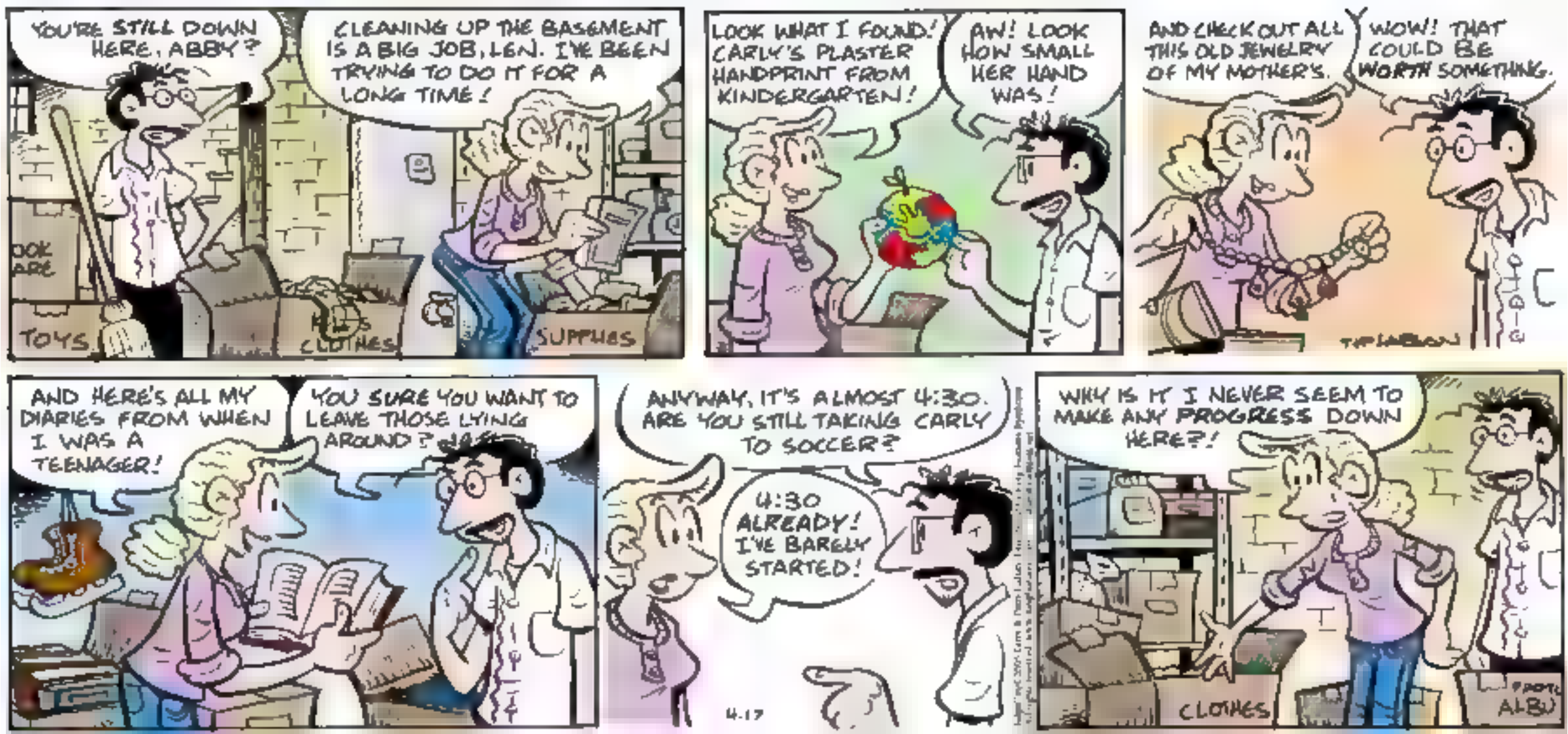
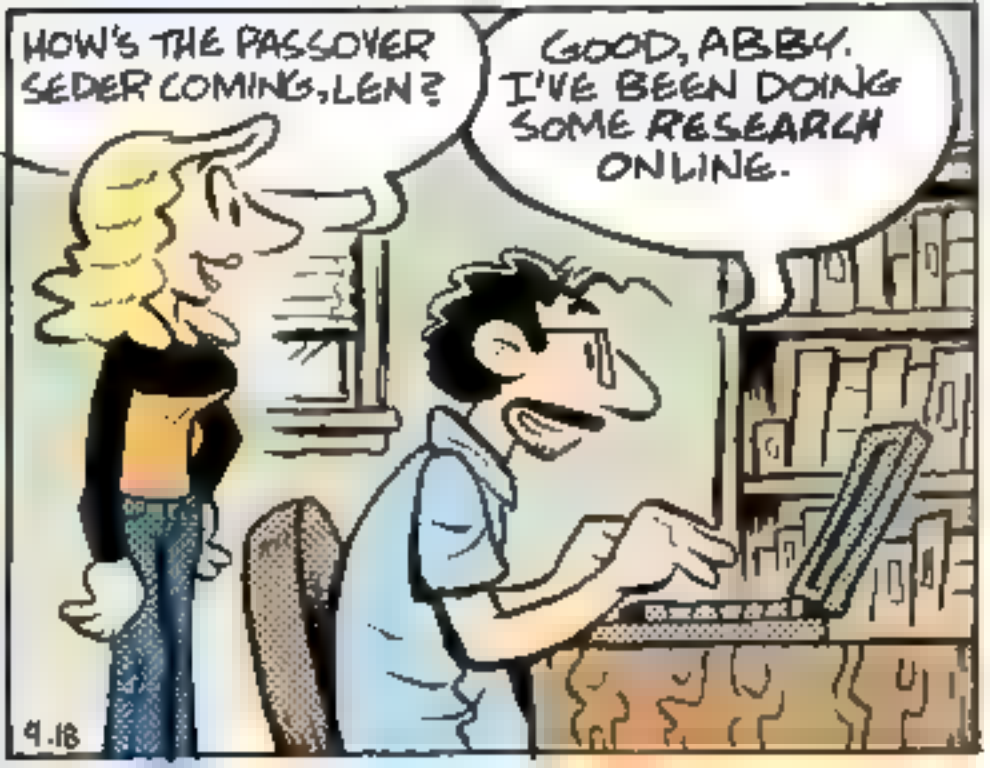
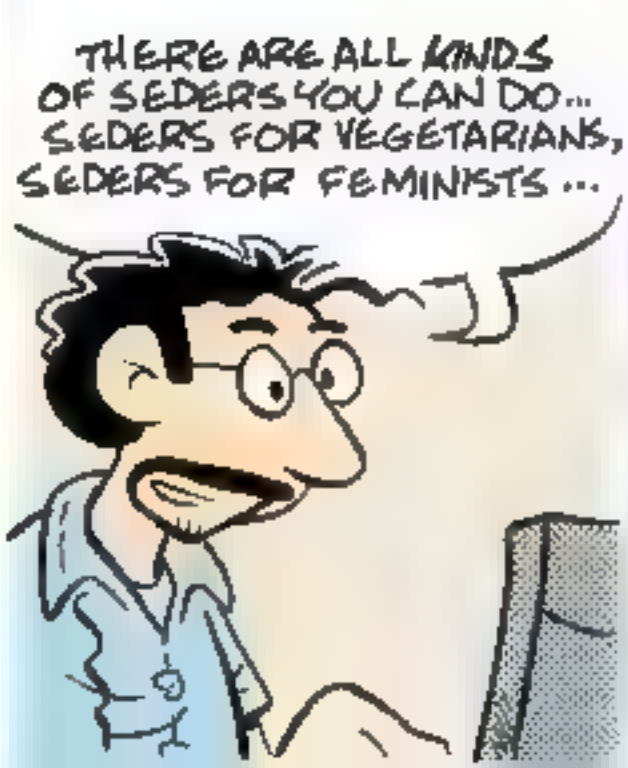

OH, MAN!
WHAT'S WRONG?
I JUST TOLD MY MOM WE'D HAVE PASSOVER AT OUR HOUSE THIS YEAR! DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH WORK THAT'LL BE?
CALM DOWN, ABBY! I'LL HELP.
THANKS, LEN. WE'LL BOTH CLEAN, I'LL COOK, AND YOU'LL LEAD THE SEDER!
I'LL LEAD THE SEDER?!
LEN, CALM DOWN...
4.14


ABBY, YOU WANT ME TO LEAD THE PASSOVER SEDER?
I'LL HAVE MY HANDS FULL COOKING, LEN.
BUT I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO LEAD A SEDER!
SURE YOU DO! YOU'VE BEEN GOING TO SEDERS YOUR WHOLE LIFE!
EVERYTHING BESIDES EATING IS KIND OF A BLUR.
I THINK THIS'LL BE GOOD FOR YOU...
4-15

OH, MAN... I'M THE ONE WHO'S SUPPOSED TO LEAD THE PASSOVER SEDER THIS YEAR!
I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHERE TO START! I NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE WHO KNOWS A LITTLE MORE THAN I DO!
4-26
C'MON, COLIN! THEY MUST TEACH YOU SOMETHING IN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. FIRST, YOU NEED SOME MATZO...


YOU'RE STILL DOWN HERE, ABBY?
CLEANING UP THE BASEMENT IS A BIG JOB, LEN. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO DO IT FOR A LONG TIME!
TOYS
CLOTHES
SUPPLIES
LOOK WHAT I FOUND! CARLY'S PLASTER HANDPRINT FROM KINDERGARTEN!
AW! LOOK HOW SMALL HER HAND WAS!
AND CHECK OUT ALL THIS OLD JEWELRY OF MY MOTHER'S.
WOW! THAT COULD BE WORTH SOMETHING.
AND HERE'S ALL MY DIARIES FROM WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER!
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO LEAVE THOSE LYING AROUND?
ANYWAY, IT'S ALMOST 4:30. ARE YOU STILL TAKING CARLY TO SOCCER?
4:30 ALREADY! I'VE BARELY STARTED!
4-17
WHY IS IT I NEVER SEEM TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS DOWN HERE?!
CLOTHES
ALBU





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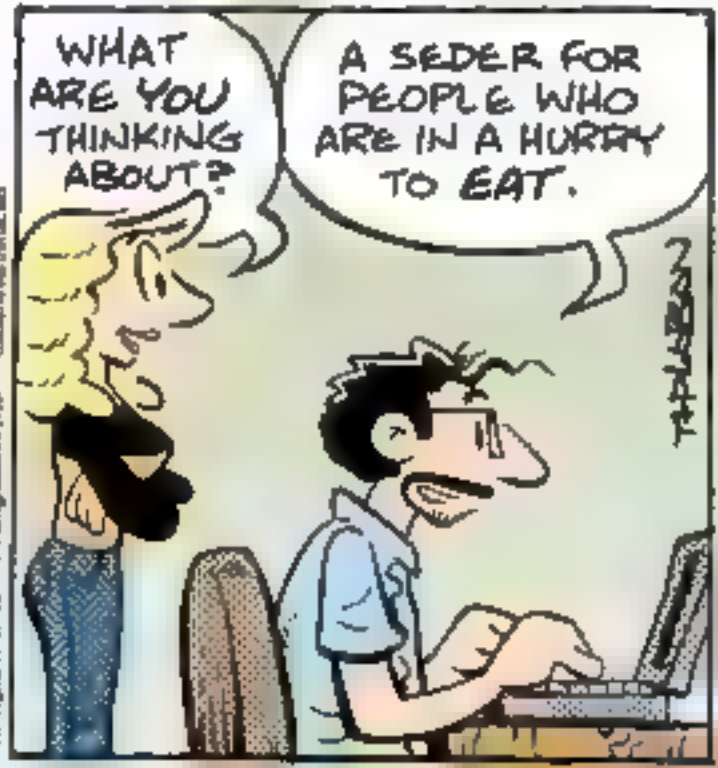
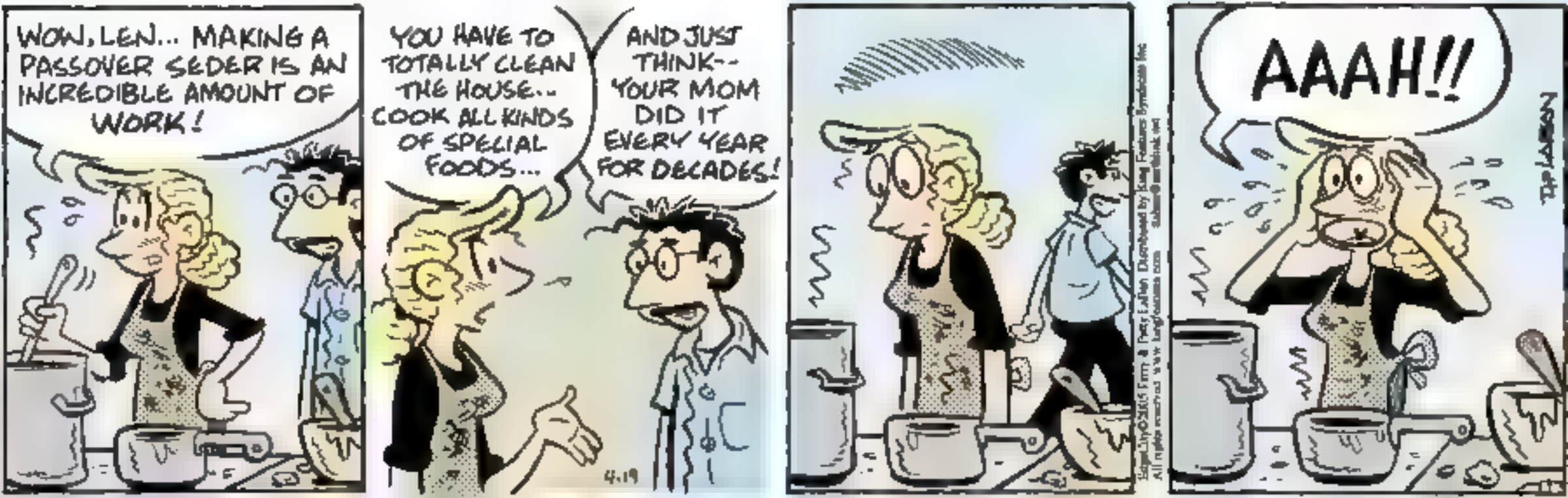
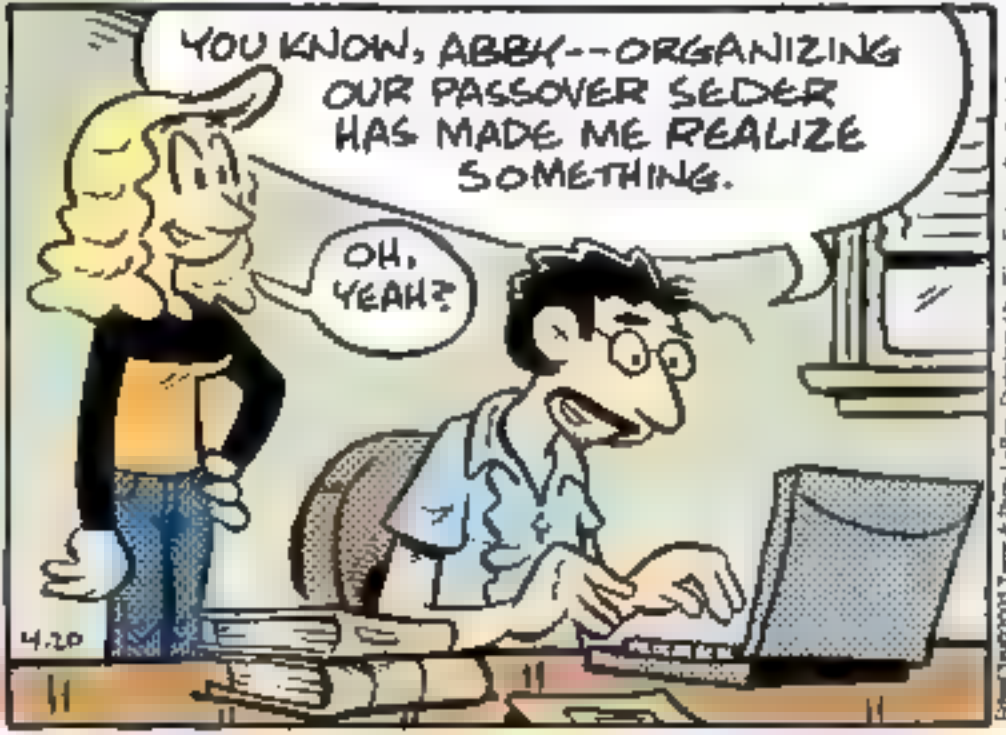



WOW, LEN... MAKING A PASSOVER SEDER IS AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF WORK!
YOU HAVE TO TOTALLY CLEAN THE HOUSE... COOK ALL KINDS OF SPECIAL FOODS...
AND JUST THINK-- YOUR MOM DID IT EVERY YEAR FOR DECADES!
4.19
AAAH!!
TOP LARSON



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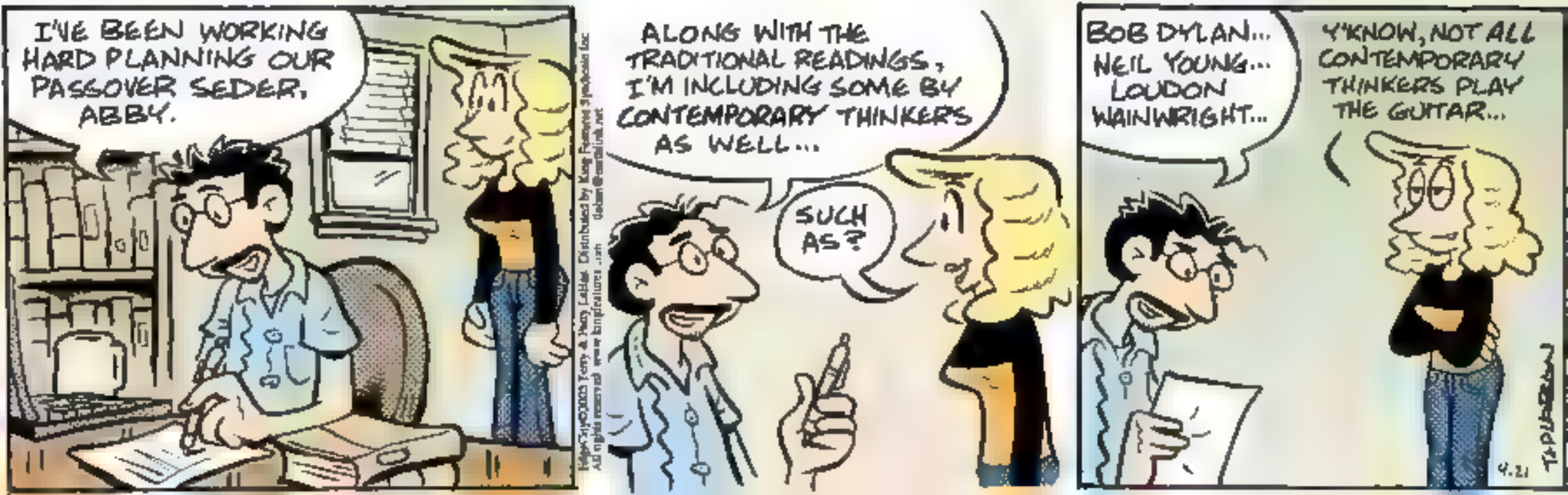
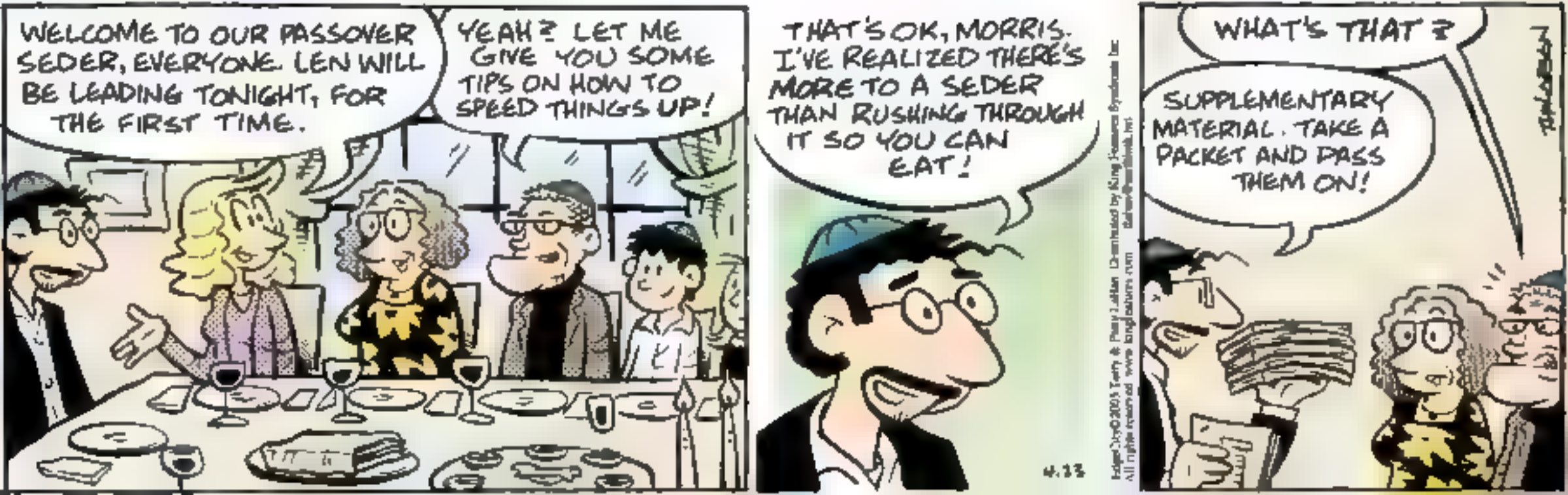

I'VE BEEN WORKING HARD PLANNING OUR PASSOVER SEDER, ABBY.
ALONG WITH THE TRADITIONAL READINGS, I'M INCLUDING SOME BY CONTEMPORARY THINKERS AS WELL...
SUCH AS?
BOB DYLAN... NEIL YOUNG... LOUDON WAINWRIGHT...
Y'KNOW, NOT ALL CONTEMPORARY THINKERS PLAY THE GUITAR...
4.21

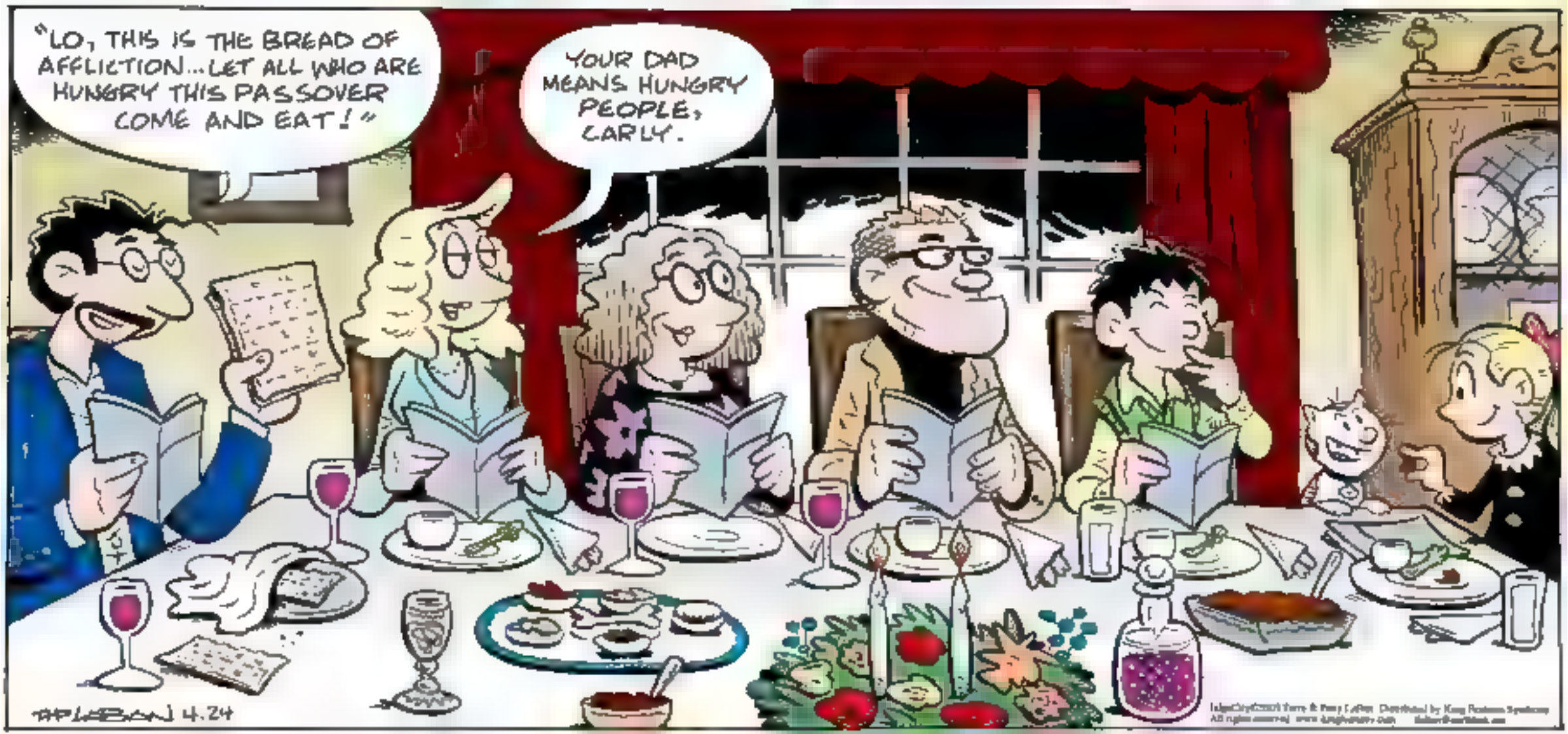
THINK WE'LL BE READY BY TOMORROW NIGHT, ABBY?
YUP!

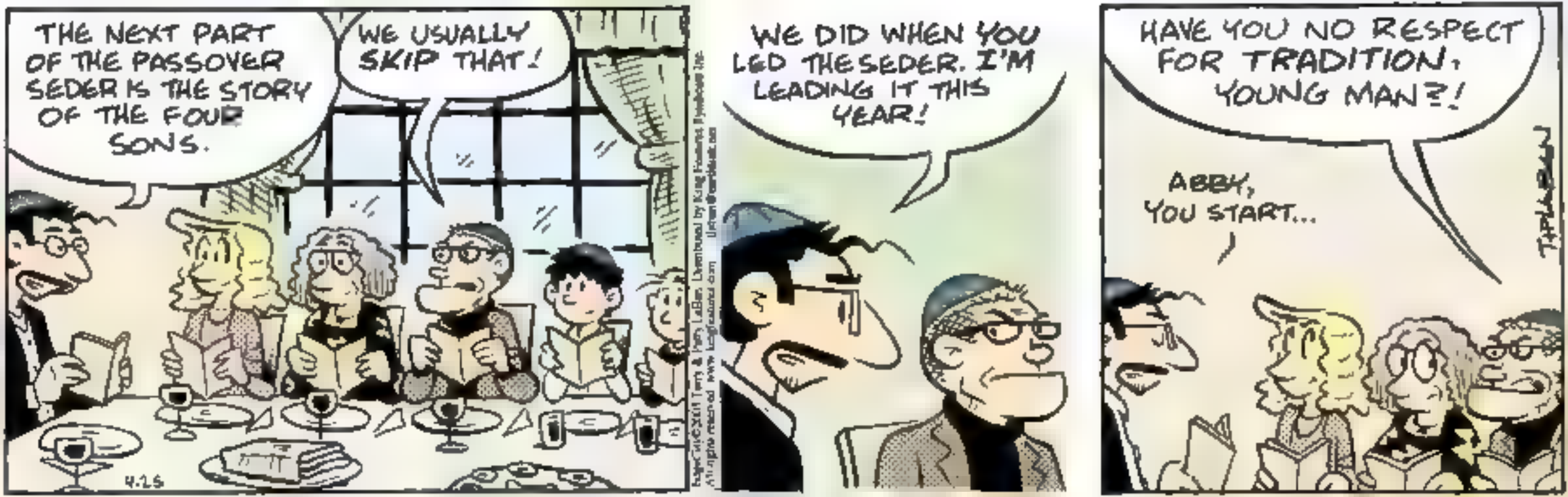
I MADE THE SOUP, COOKED THE SIDE DISHES AND BAKED THE BRISKET. PASSOVER DINNER IS PRETTY MUCH DONE!

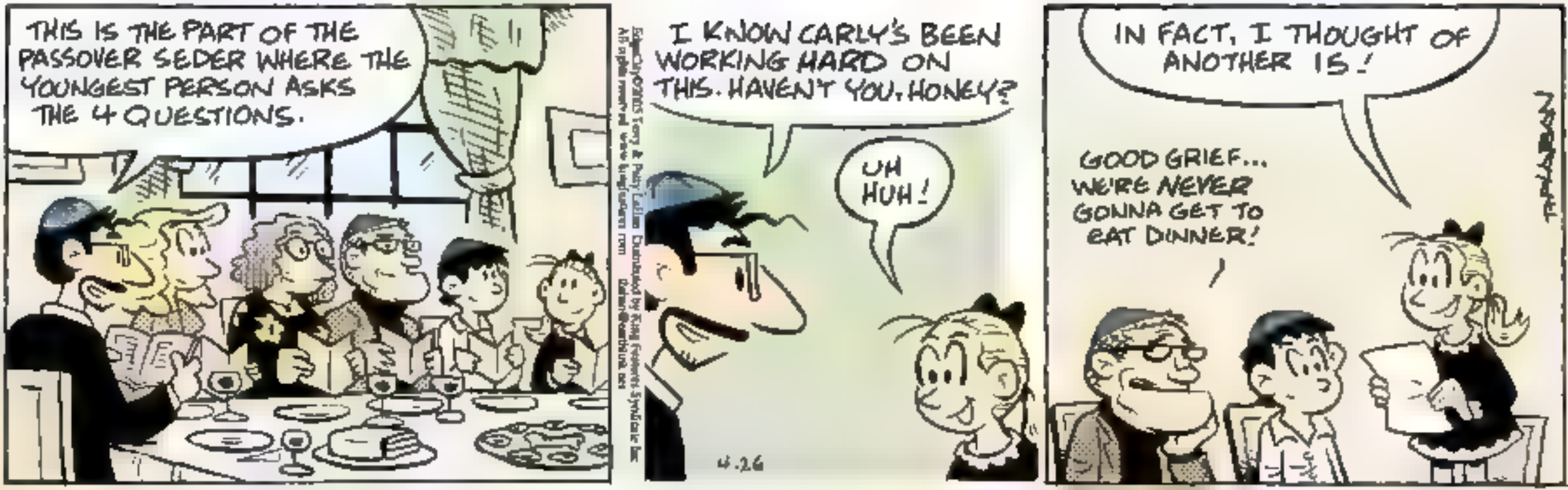
GREAT WORK, HONEY! I BET YOU'RE READY FOR BED!
YEAH!

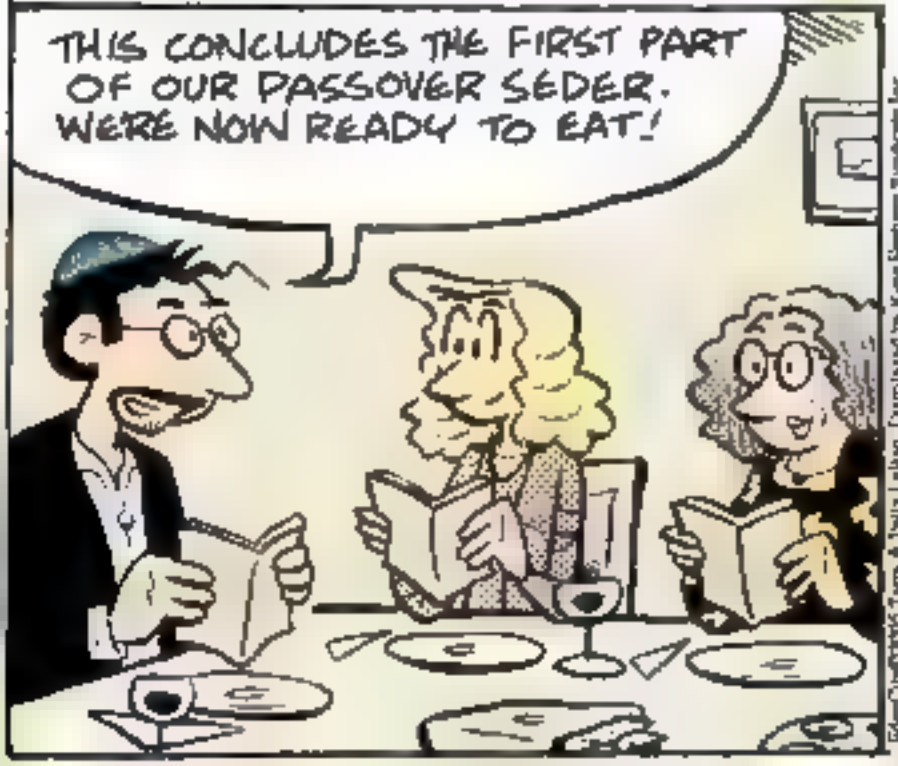
AS SOON AS WE POLISH THE SILVER, RINSE THE CHINA, GET THE EXTRA CHAIRS, SET THE TABLE...


WELCOME TO OUR PASSOVER SEDER, EVERYONE. LEN WILL BE LEADING TONIGHT, FOR THE FIRST TIME.
YEAH? LET ME GIVE YOU SOME TIPS ON HOW TO SPEED THINGS UP!
THAT'S OK, MORRIS. I'VE REALIZED THERE'S MORE TO A SEDER THAN RUSHING THROUGH IT SO YOU CAN EAT!
4.13
WHAT'S THAT?
SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL. TAKE A PACKET AND PASS THEM ON!


"LO, THIS IS THE BREAD OF AFFLICTION...LET ALL WHO ARE HUNGRY THIS PASSOVER COME AND EAT!"
YOUR DAD MEANS HUNGRY PEOPLE, CARLY.
4.24


THE NEXT PART OF THE PASSOVER SEDER IS THE STORY OF THE FOUR SONS.
WE USUALLY SKIP THAT!
WE DID WHEN YOU LED THE SEDER. I'M LEADING IT THIS YEAR!
HAVE YOU NO RESPECT FOR TRADITION, YOUNG MAN?!
ABBY, YOU START...
4.25


THIS IS THE PART OF THE PASSOVER SEDER WHERE THE YOUNGEST PERSON ASKS THE 4 QUESTIONS.
I KNOW CARLY'S BEEN WORKING HARD ON THIS. HAVEN'T YOU, HONEY?
UH HUH!
4.26
IN FACT, I THOUGHT OF ANOTHER 15!
GOOD GRIEF... WE'RE NEVER GONNA GET TO EAT DINNER!



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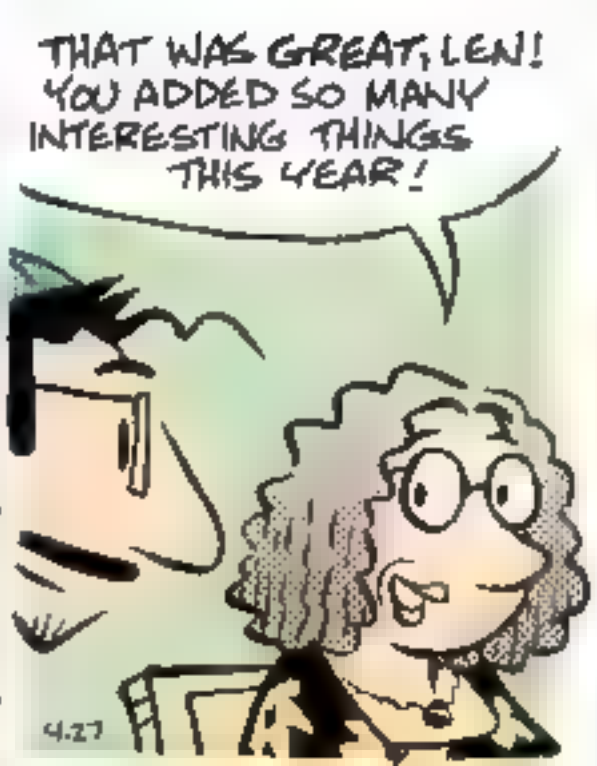
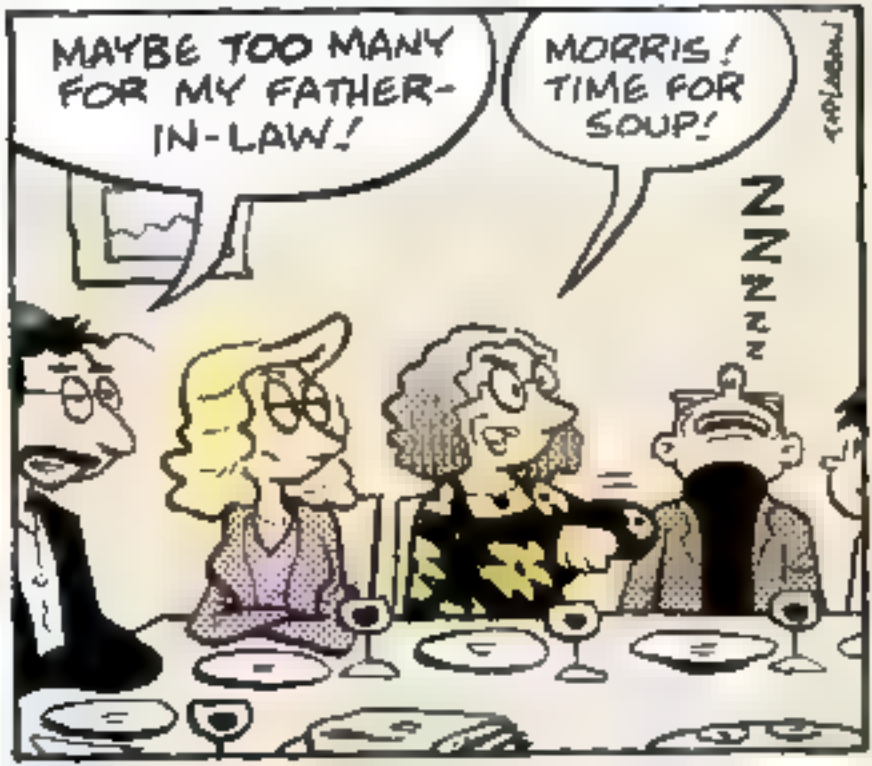
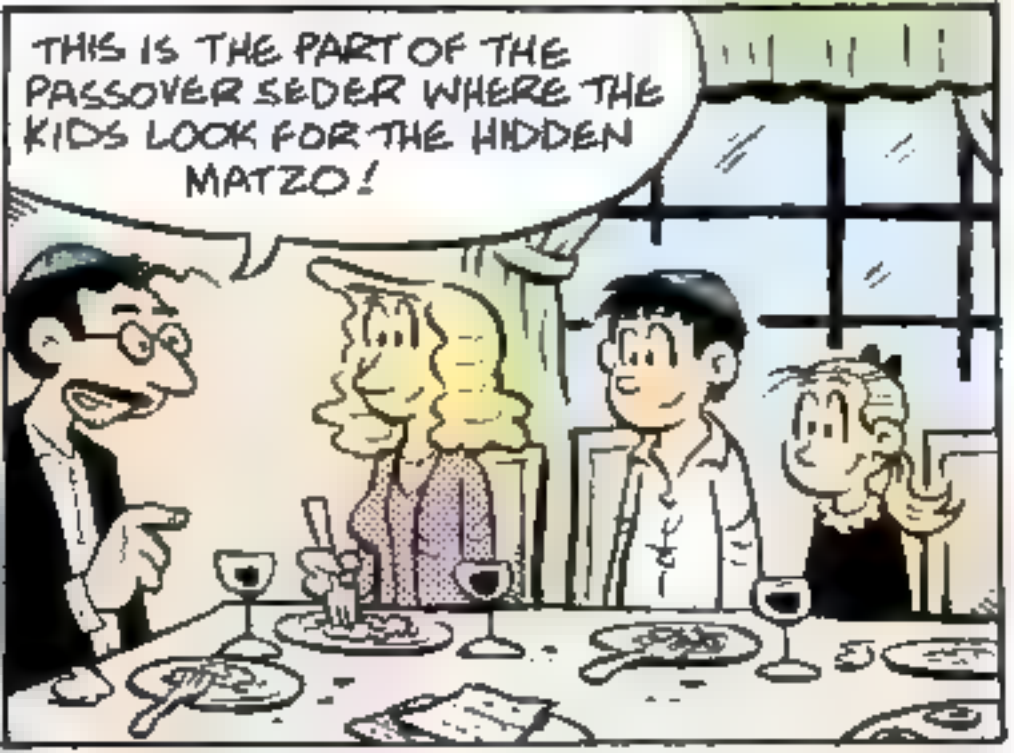
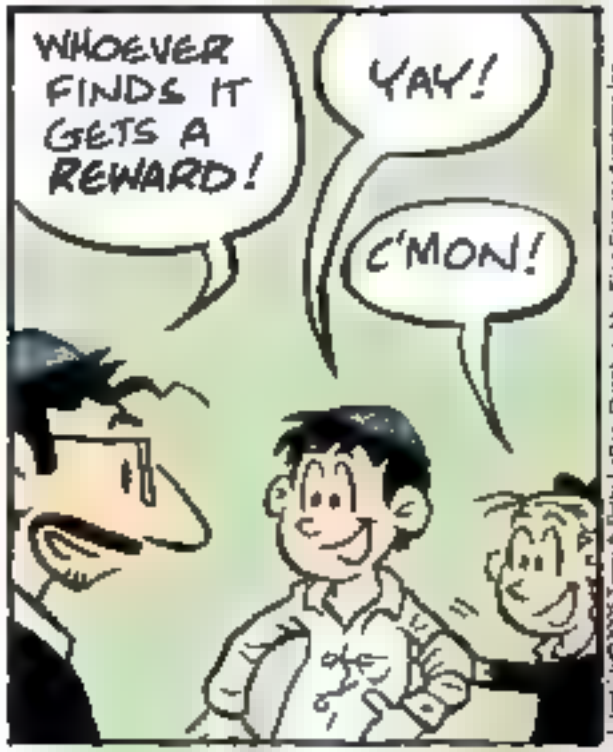
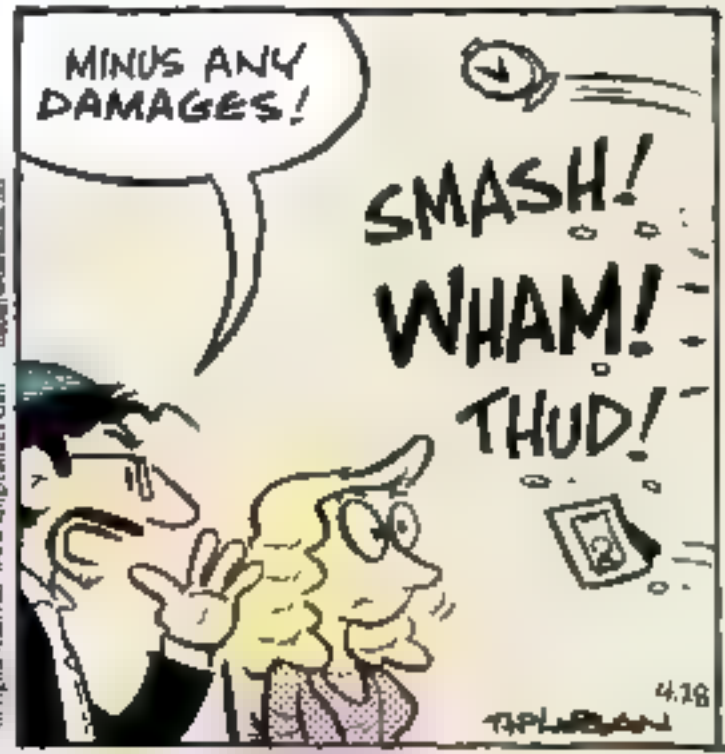
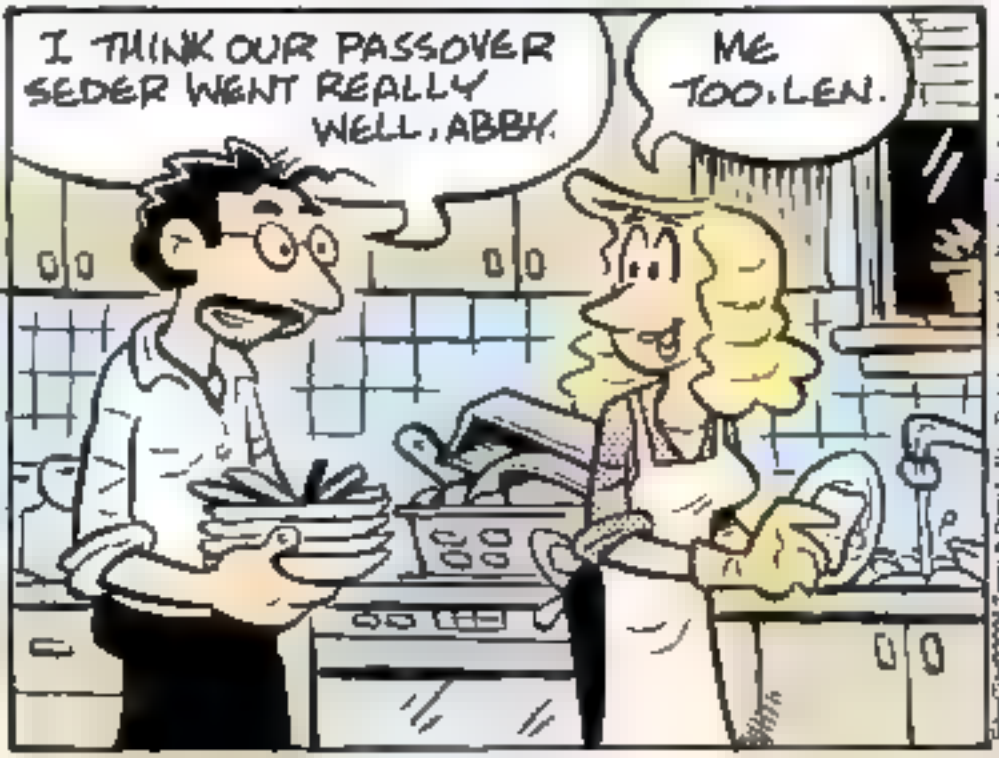





THIS IS THE PART OF THE PASSOVER SEDER WHERE THE KIDS LOOK FOR THE HIDDEN MATZO!


WHOEVER FINDS IT GETS A REWARD!
YAY!
C'MON!


MINUS ANY DAMAGES!
SMASH!
WHAM!
THUD!
4.18



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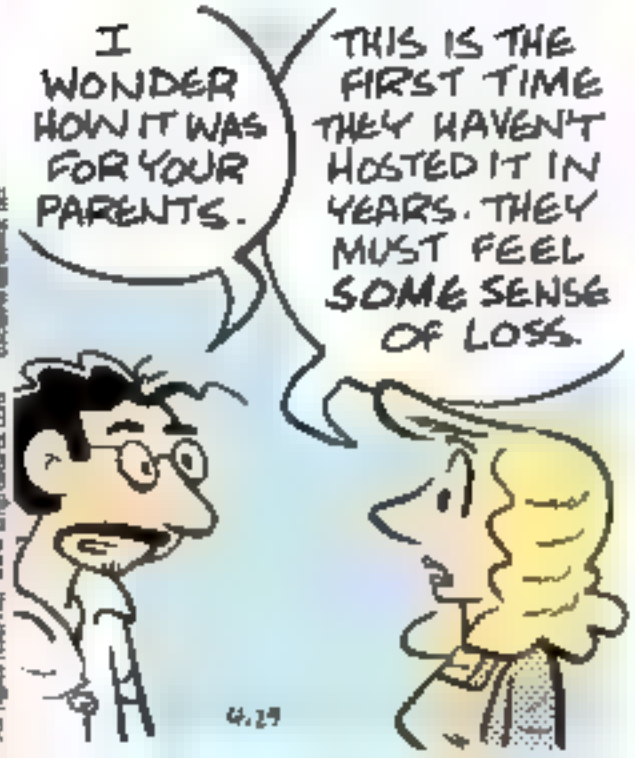
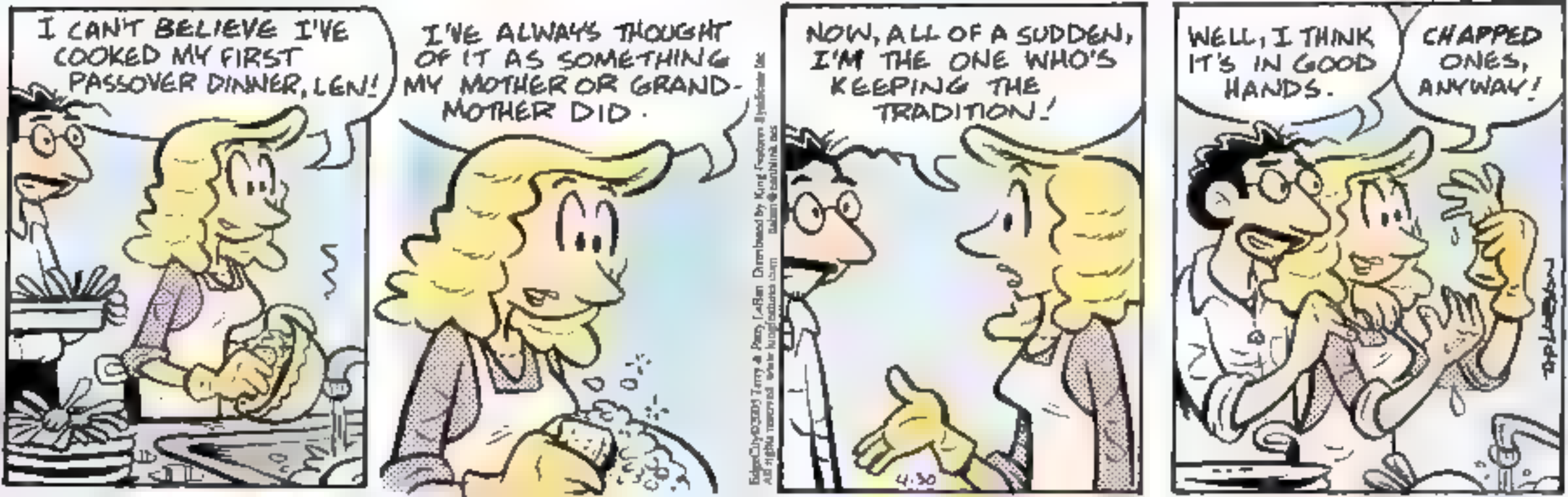
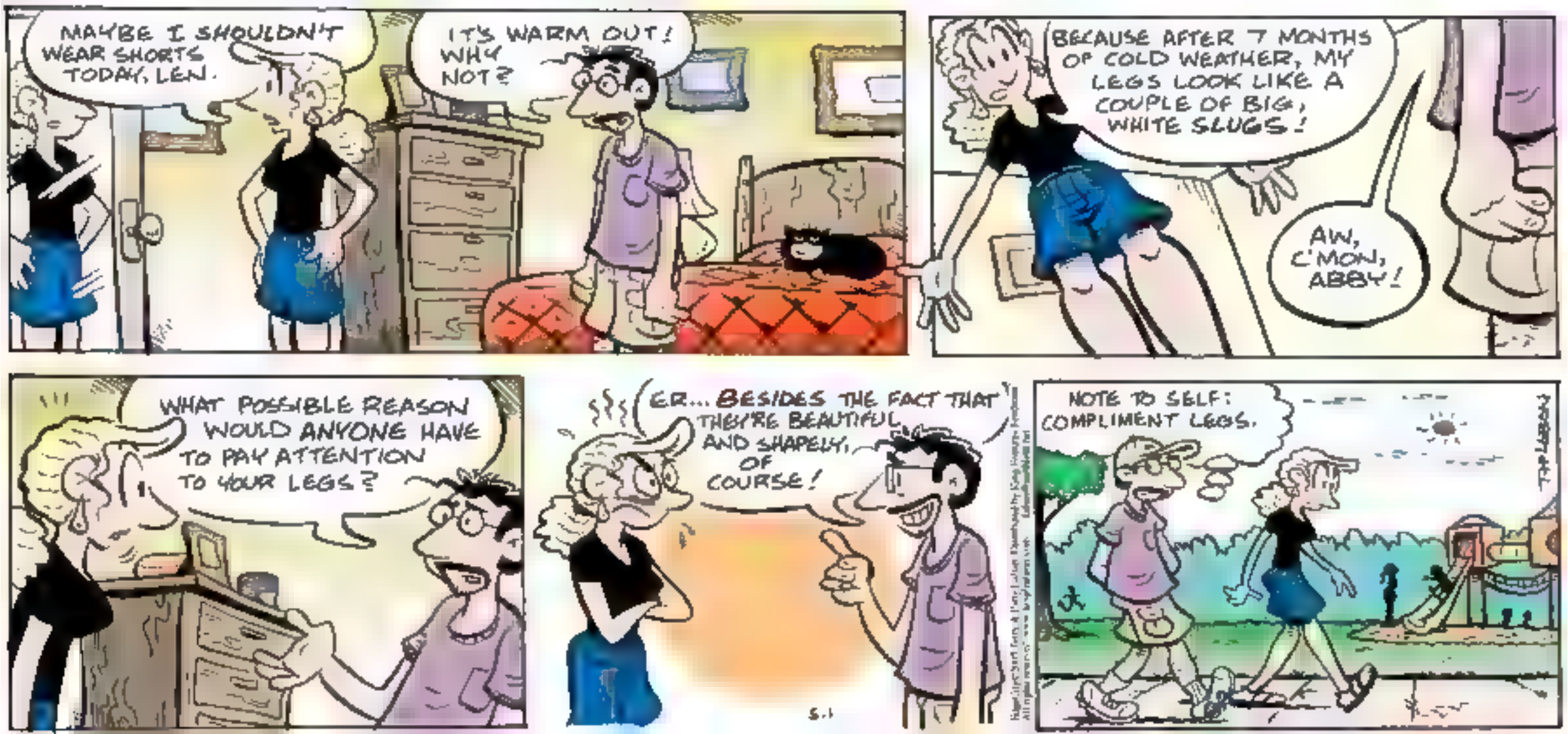
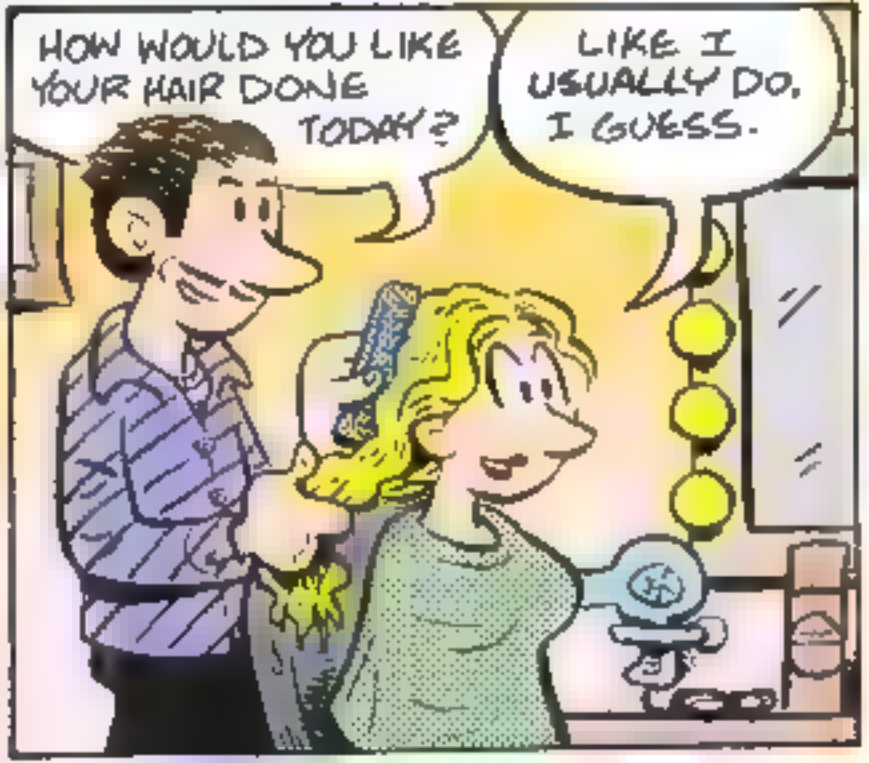
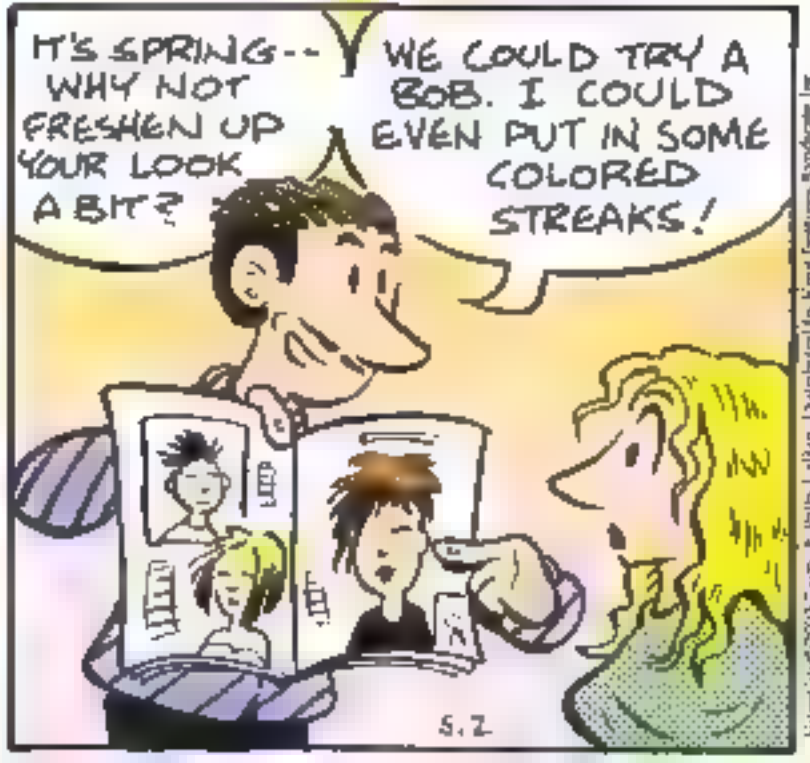


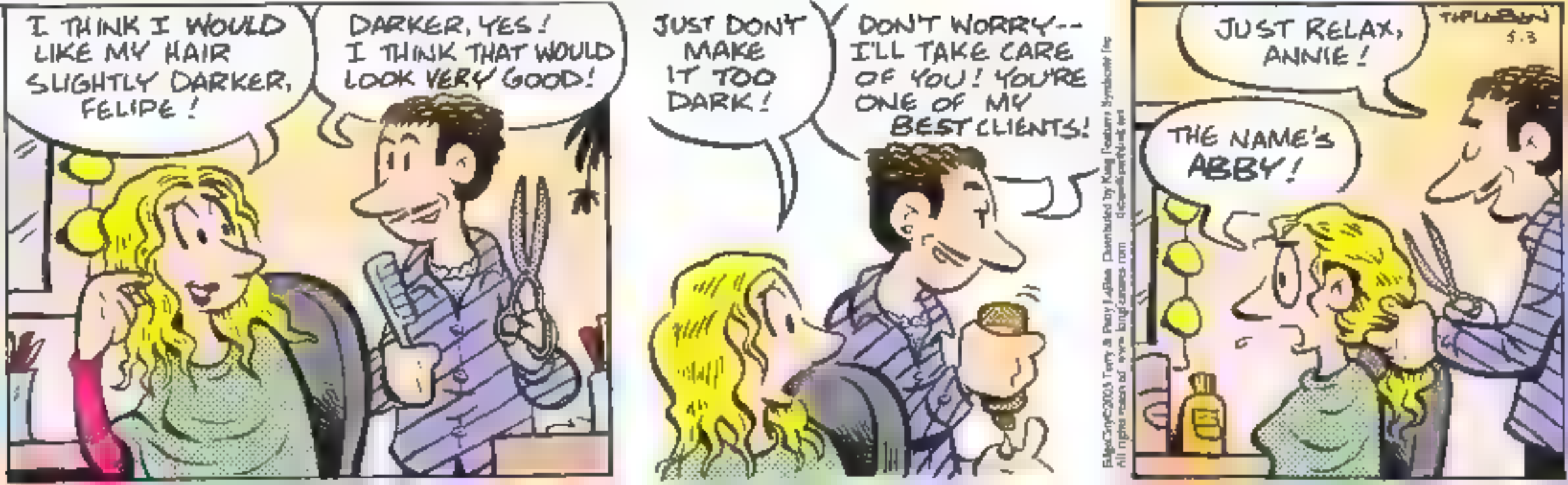

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE COOKED MY FIRST PASSOVER DINNER, LEN!
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF IT AS SOMETHING MY MOTHER OR GRANDMOTHER DID.
NOW, ALL OF A SUDDEN, I'M THE ONE WHO'S KEEPING THE TRADITION!
WELL, I THINK IT'S IN GOOD HANDS.
CHAPPED ONES, ANYWAY!

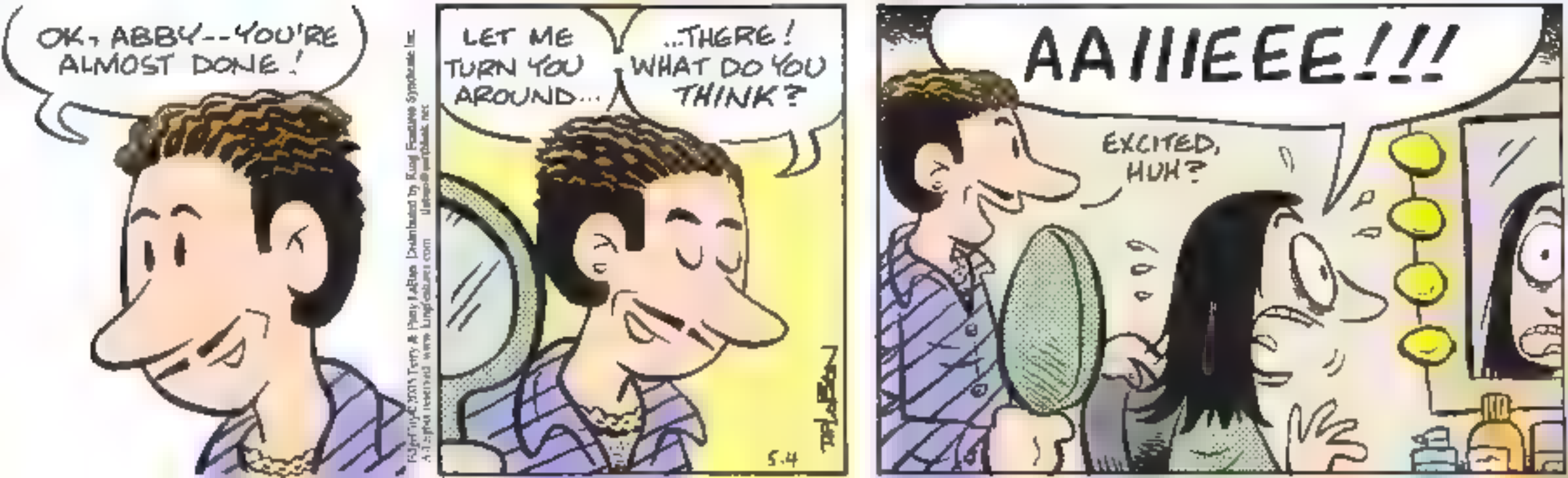

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T WEAR SHORTS TODAY, LEN.
IT'S WARM OUT! WHY NOT?
BECAUSE AFTER 7 MONTHS OF COLD WEATHER, MY LEGS LOOK LIKE A COUPLE OF BIG, WHITE SLUGS!
AW, C'MON, ABBY!
WHAT POSSIBLE REASON WOULD ANYONE HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR LEGS?
ER... BESIDES THE FACT THAT THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL AND SHAPELY, OF COURSE!
NOTE TO SELF: COMPLIMENT LEGS.

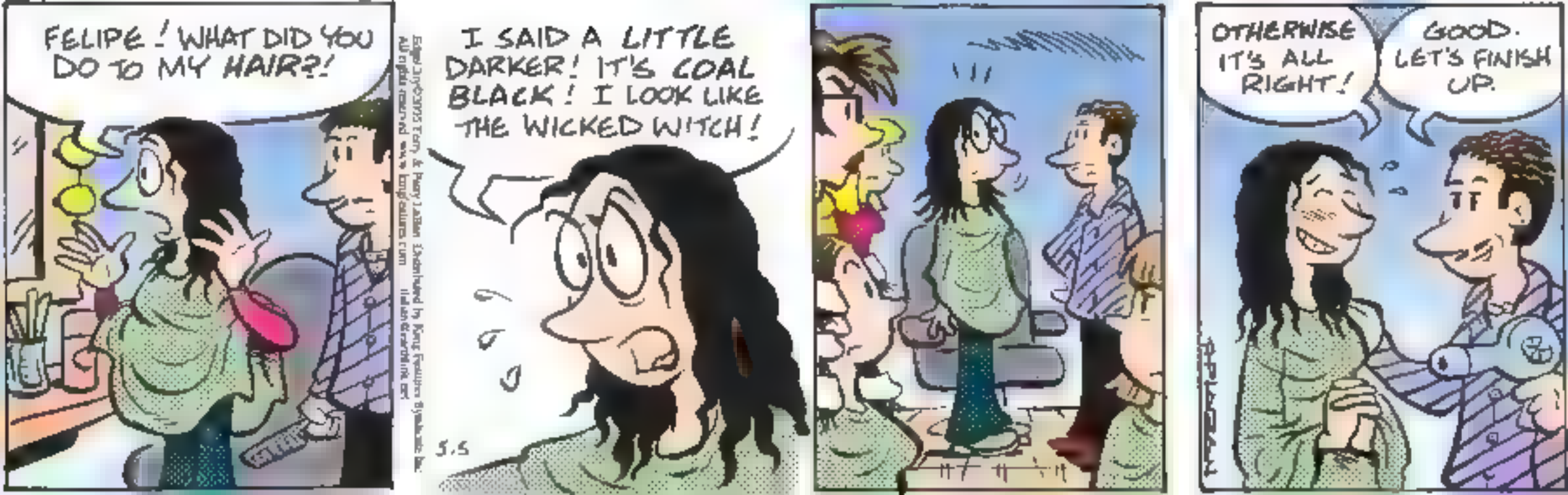

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR HAIR DONE TODAY?
LIKE I USUALLY DO, I GUESS.


IT'S SPRING-- WHY NOT FRESHEN UP YOUR LOOK A BIT?
WE COULD TRY A BOB. I COULD EVEN PUT IN SOME COLORED STREAKS!
S.Z.

WELL... I HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT MAKING IT A SHADE DARKER...
WHOA! LET'S NOT GET TOO CRAZY!
T+PLARSEN


I THINK I WOULD LIKE MY HAIR SLIGHTLY DARKER, FELIPE!
DARKER, YES! I THINK THAT WOULD LOOK VERY GOOD!
JUST DON'T MAKE IT TOO DARK!
DON'T WORRY-- I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU! YOU'RE ONE OF MY BEST CLIENTS!
JUST RELAX, ANNIE!
THE NAME'S ABBY!


OK, ABBY--YOU'RE ALMOST DONE!
LET ME TURN YOU AROUND...
...THERE! WHAT DO YOU THINK?
5.4
AAIIEEE!!!
EXCITED, HUH?

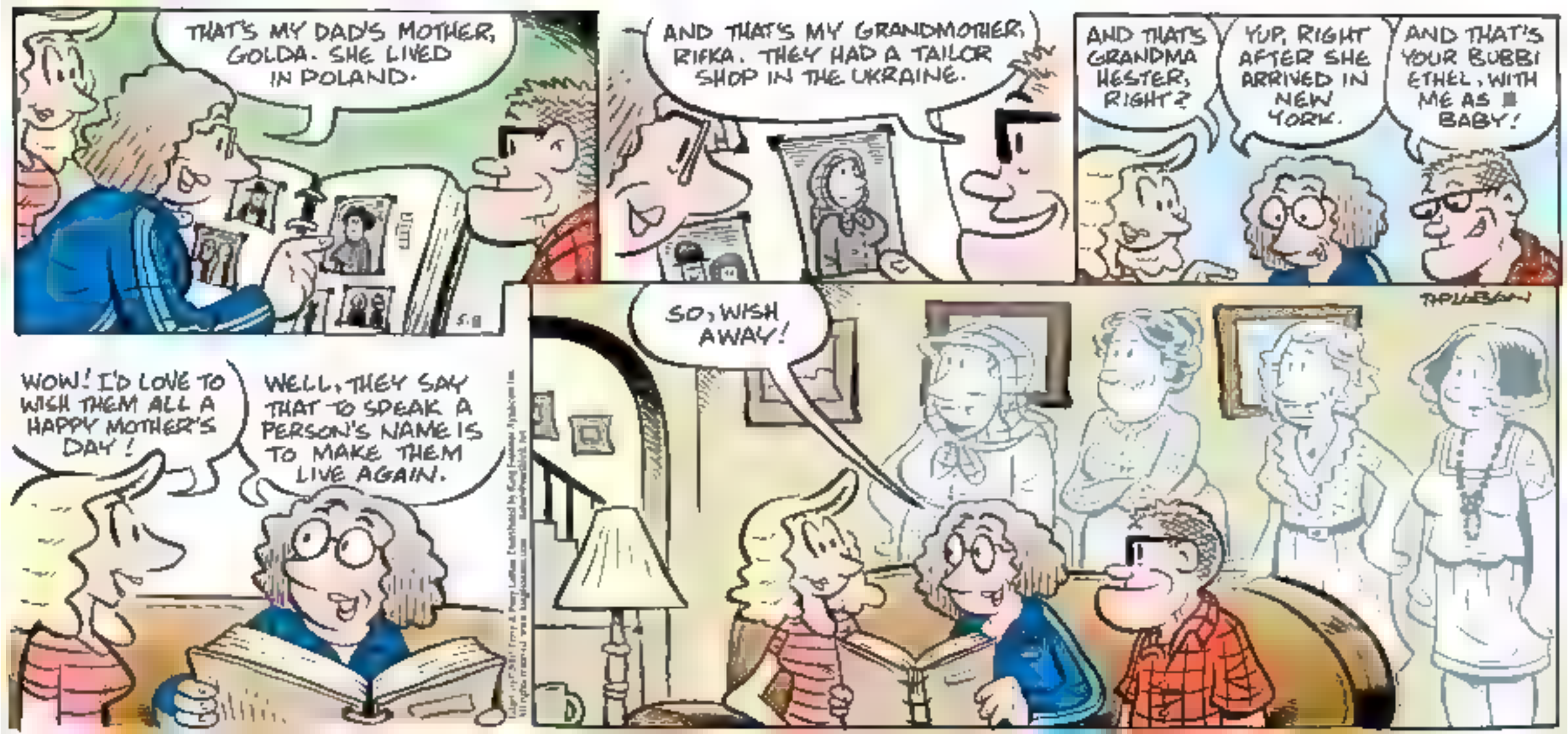

FELIPE! WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY HAIR?!
I SAID A LITTLE DARKER! IT'S COAL BLACK! I LOOK LIKE THE WICKED WITCH!
OTHERWISE IT'S ALL RIGHT!
GOOD. LET'S FINISH UP.

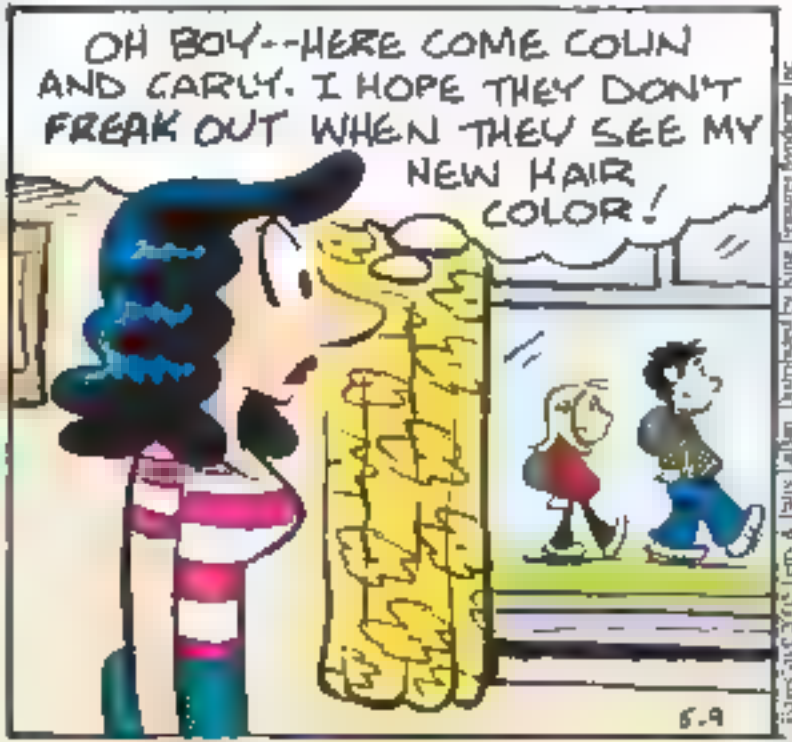
THAT'LL BE $75.00
WHAT SHOULD I DO? I REALLY HATE WHAT HE DID WITH MY HAIR!

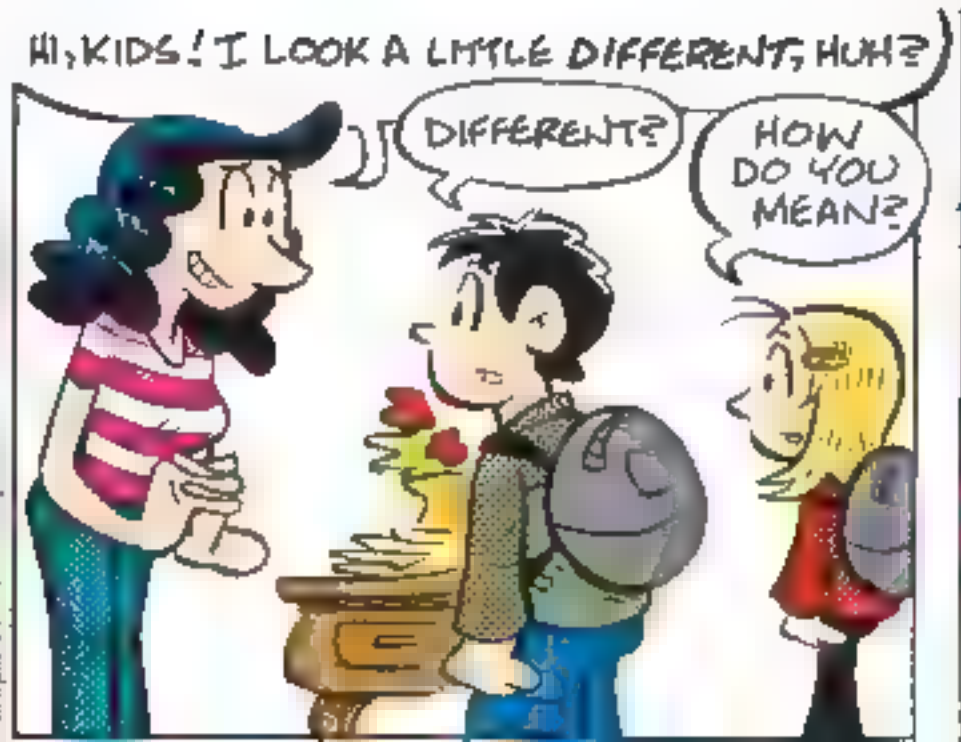
I SHOULD REFUSE TO PAY! I SHOULD DEMAND TO TALK TO HIS BOSS! AT THE VERY LEAST, I SHOULDN'T GIVE HIM A TIP!
5-6

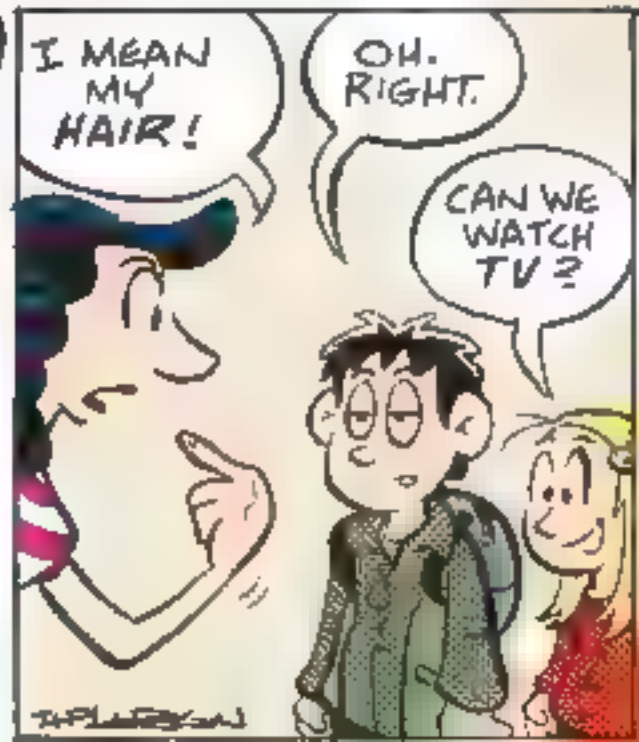
$90.00! THANKS, ABBY.
ON THE OTHER HAND, I DON'T WANT HIM TO GET MAD AT ME.

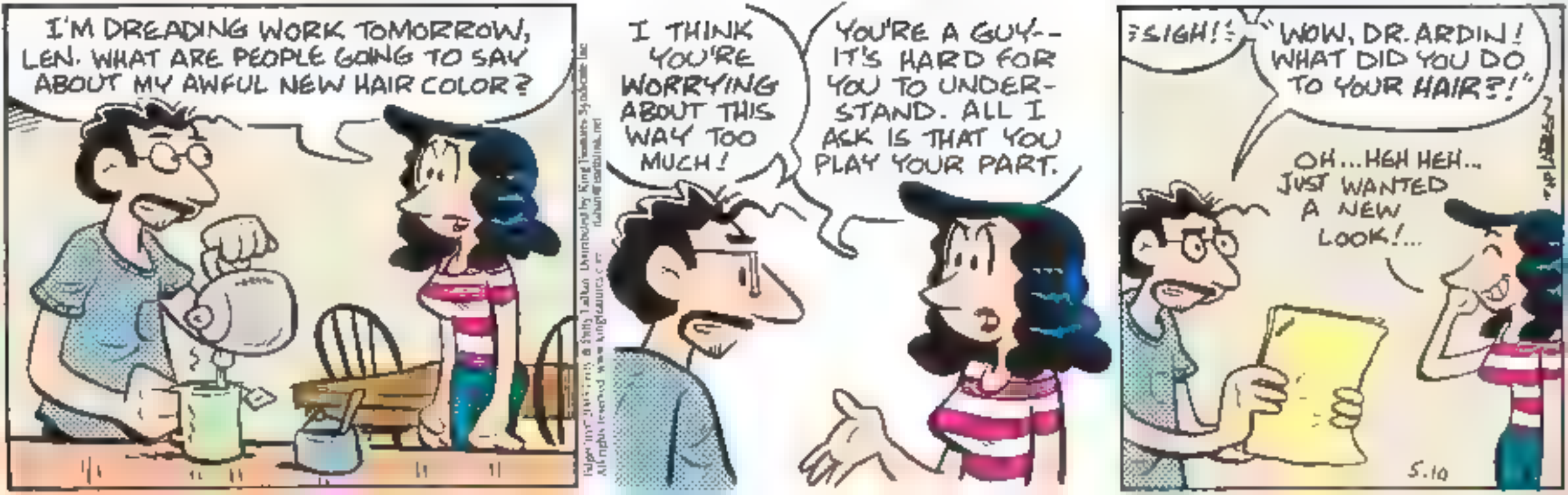
?ULP!! HI, LEN! WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HEY, YOU CHANGED YOUR HAIR COLOR! IT LOOKS GOOD.
GOOD? YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING! IT LOOKS LIKE THE HAIRSTYLIST WASHED MY HAIR IN INK!
5-7
WELL, IT IS A LITTLE DARK.
OH, GOSH...DOES IT REALLY LOOK THAT BAD?


THAT'S MY DAD'S MOTHER, GOLDA. SHE LIVED IN POLAND.
AND THAT'S MY GRANDMOTHER, RIFKA. THEY HAD A TAILOR SHOP IN THE UKRAINE.
AND THAT'S GRANDMA HESTER, RIGHT?
YUP, RIGHT AFTER SHE ARRIVED IN NEW YORK.
AND THAT'S YOUR BUBBI ETHEL, WITH ME AS A BABY!
WOW! I'D LOVE TO WISH THEM ALL A HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
WELL, THEY SAY THAT TO SPEAK A PERSON'S NAME IS TO MAKE THEM LIVE AGAIN.
SO, WISH AWAY!


OH BOY--HERE COME COLIN AND CARLY. I HOPE THEY DON'T FREAK OUT WHEN THEY SEE MY NEW HAIR COLOR!
6-9


HI, KIDS! I LOOK A LITTLE DIFFERENT, HUH?
DIFFERENT?
HOW DO YOU MEAN?


I MEAN MY HAIR!
OH. RIGHT.
CAN WE WATCH TV?

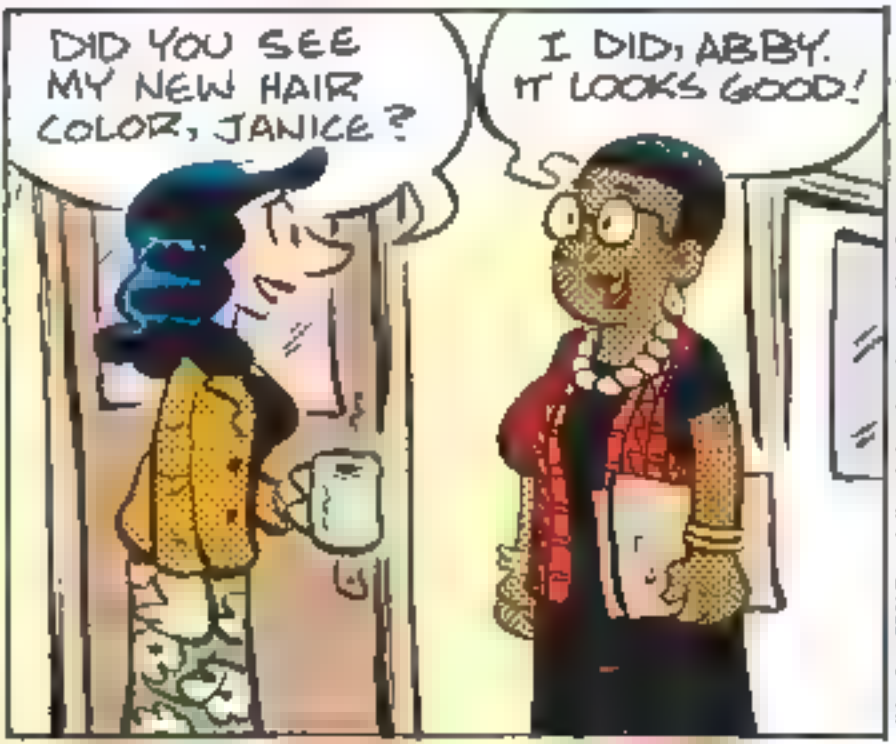

I'M DREADING WORK TOMORROW, LEN. WHAT ARE PEOPLE GOING TO SAY ABOUT MY AWFUL NEW HAIR COLOR?
I THINK YOU'RE WORRYING ABOUT THIS WAY TOO MUCH!
YOU'RE A GUY-- IT'S HARD FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND. ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU PLAY YOUR PART.
SIGH!
"WOW, DR. ARDIN! WHAT DID YOU DO TO YOUR HAIR?!"
OH...HEH HEH... JUST WANTED A NEW LOOK!...
5.10

OH, BOY -- I'M ALMOST AT WORK!

NOW IS THE MOMENT WHEN MY NEW HAIR COLOR WILL BE REVEALED TO MY CO-WORKERS AND CLIENTS!
5-11

I'M READY FOR ANYTHING -- STUNNED SILENCE... CRIES OF HORROR...
HEADS UP
MENTAL HEAL CARE

MORNING, ABBY.
ABBY, YOUR 10 O'CLOCK'S GOING TO BE LATE.



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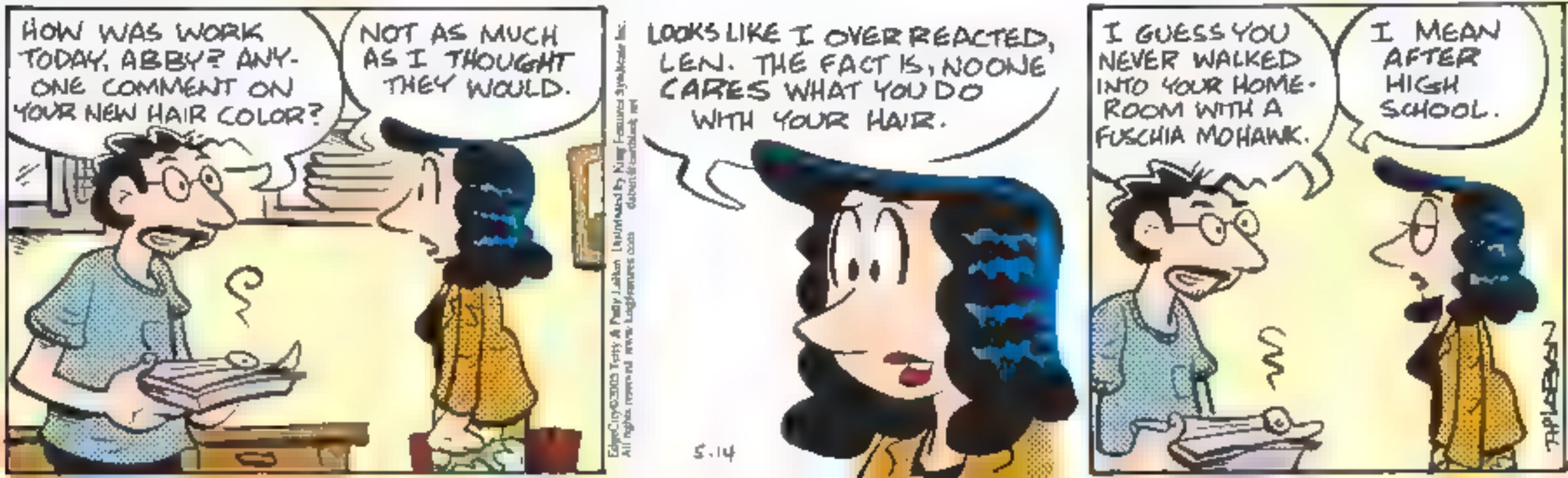
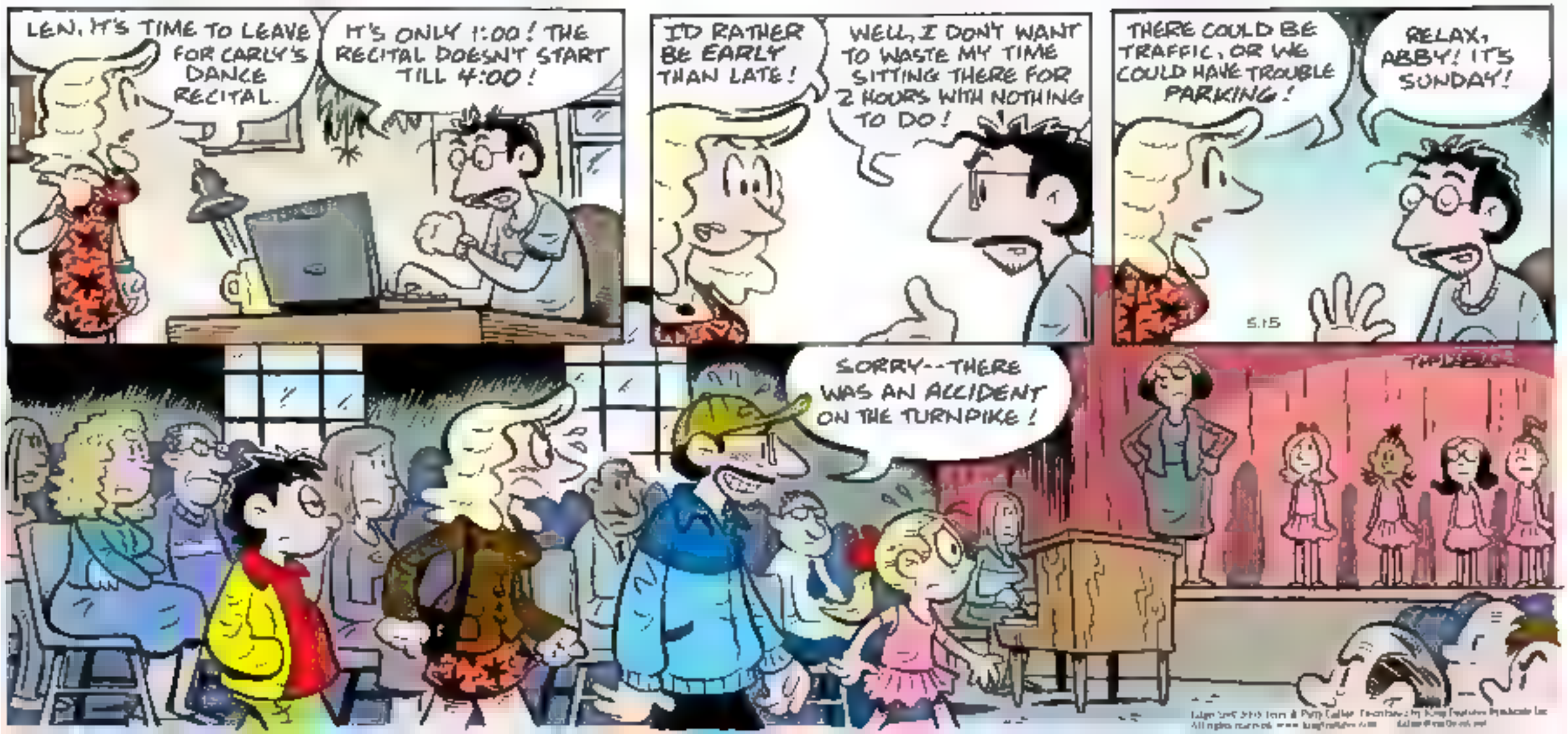
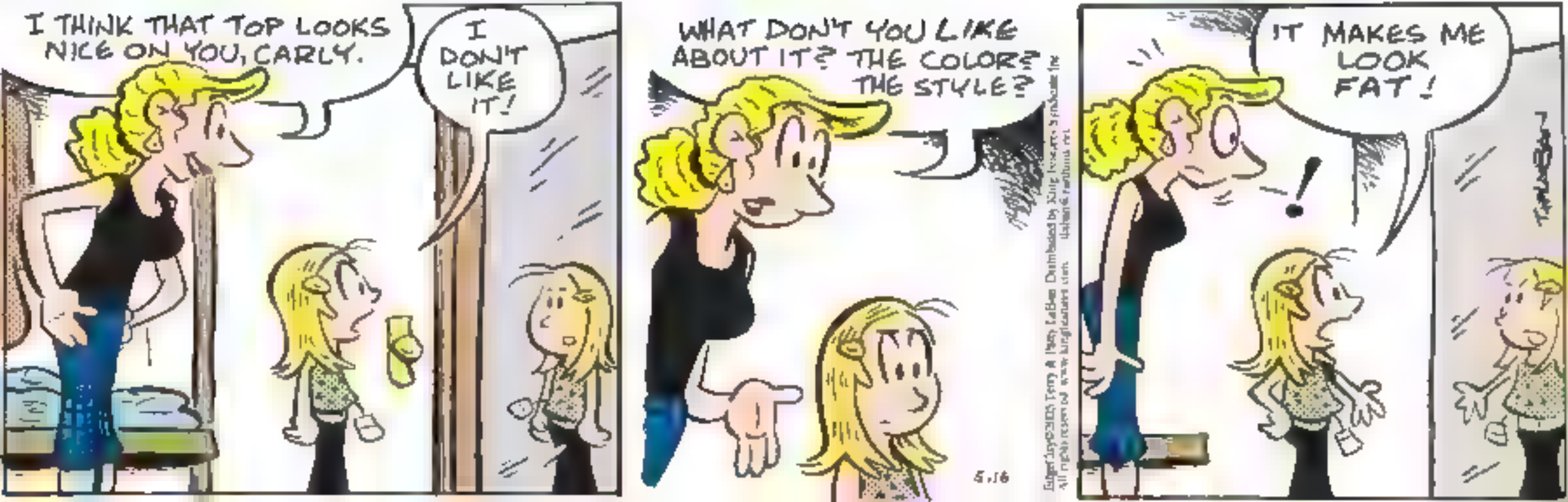
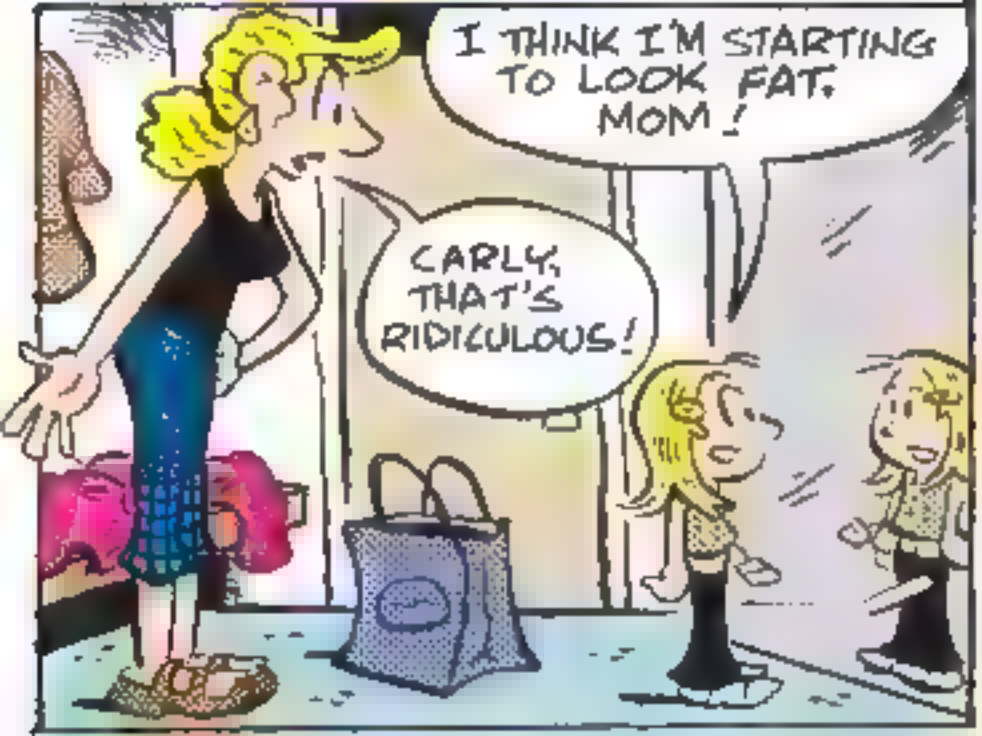
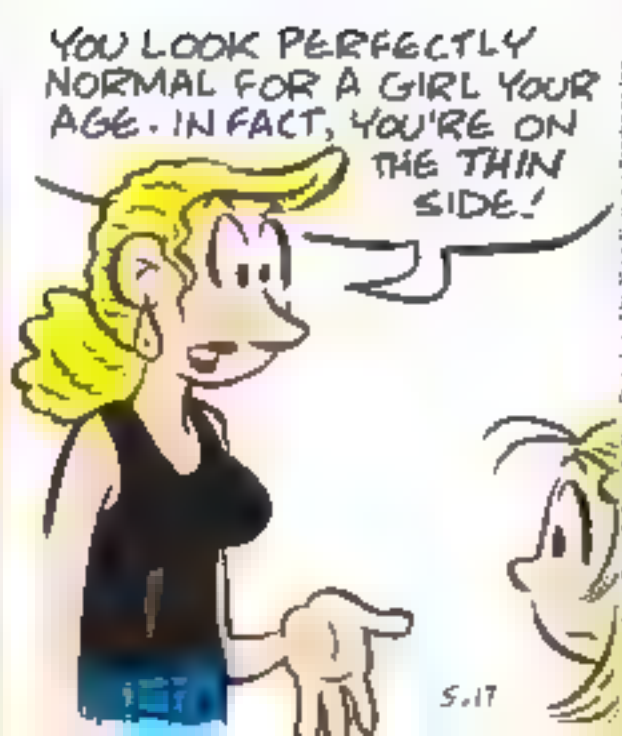
Y'KNOW, JANICE, I WORRIED HOW PEOPLE WOULD REACT TO MY NEW HAIR COLOR. BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO CARE.
IS THAT A SURPRISE, ABBY?
PEOPLE HAVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. YOU CAN'T EXPECT THEM TO CARE ABOUT WHAT SOMEONE ELSE DOES WITH THEIR HAIR!
UNLESS, OF COURSE, IT'S JENNIFER ANISTON.
SHE'S WEARING IT A BIT TOO LONG NOW, DON'T YOU THINK?

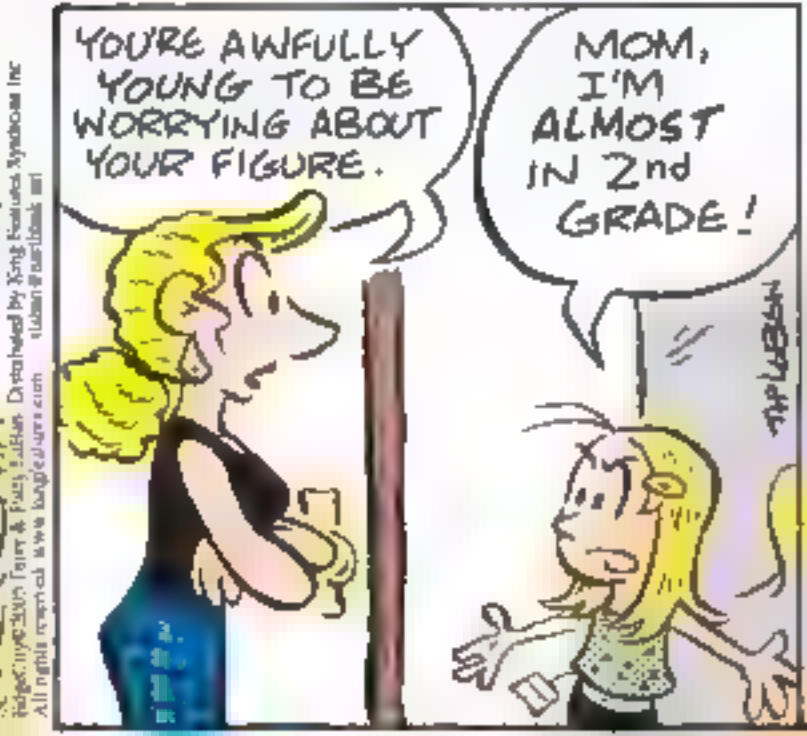

HOW WAS WORK TODAY, ABBY? ANYONE COMMENT ON YOUR NEW HAIR COLOR?
NOT AS MUCH AS I THOUGHT THEY WOULD.
LOOKS LIKE I OVER REACTED, LEN. THE FACT IS, NOONE CARES WHAT YOU DO WITH YOUR HAIR.
I GUESS YOU NEVER WALKED INTO YOUR HOMEROOM WITH A FUSCHIA MOHAWK.
I MEAN AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.
5.14

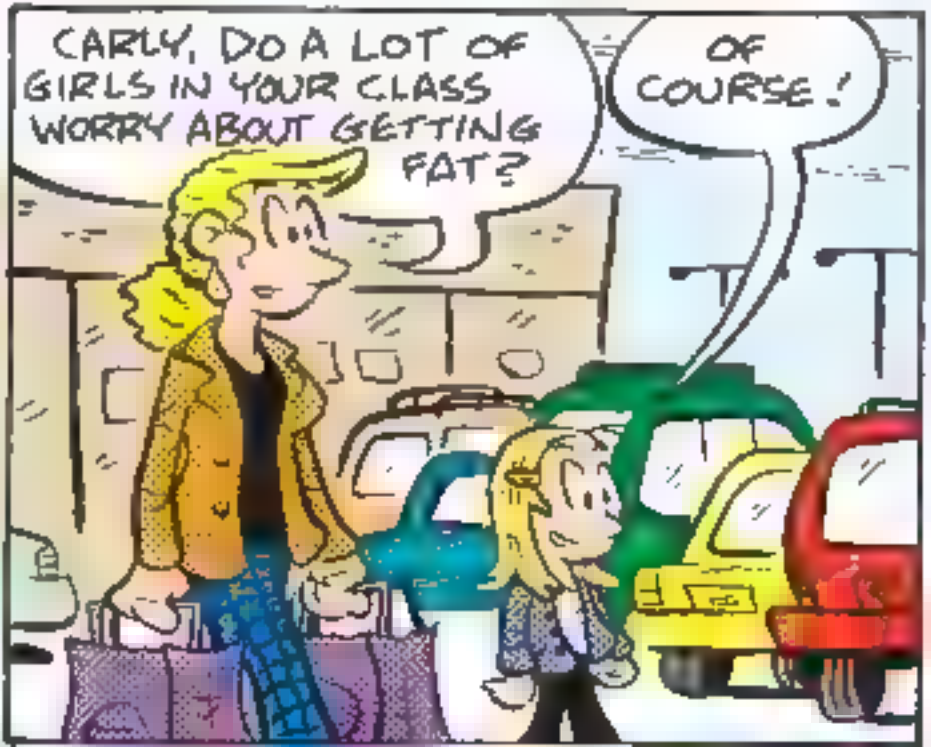

LEN, IT'S TIME TO LEAVE FOR CARLY'S DANCE RECITAL.
IT'S ONLY 1:00! THE RECITAL DOESN'T START TILL 4:00!
I'D RATHER BE EARLY THAN LATE!
WELL, I DON'T WANT TO WASTE MY TIME SITTING THERE FOR 2 HOURS WITH NOTHING TO DO!
THERE COULD BE TRAFFIC, OR WE COULD HAVE TROUBLE PARKING!
RELAX, ABBY! IT'S SUNDAY!
5.15
SORRY--THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT ON THE TURNPIKE!


I THINK THAT TOP LOOKS NICE ON YOU, CARLY.
I DON'T LIKE IT!
WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT IT? THE COLOR? THE STYLE?
5.16
IT MAKES ME LOOK FAT!

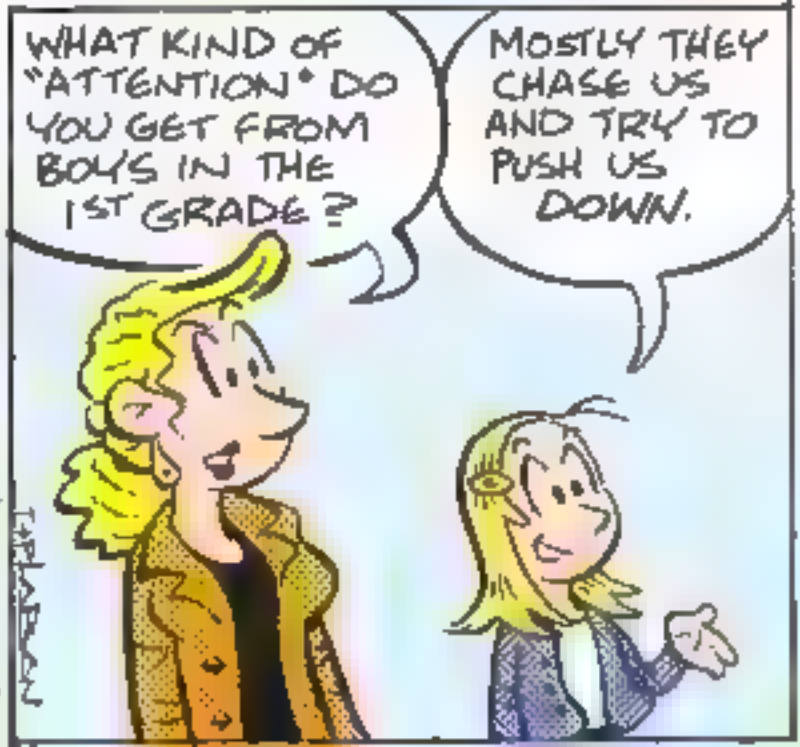

I THINK I'M STARTING TO LOOK FAT, MOM!
CARLY, THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

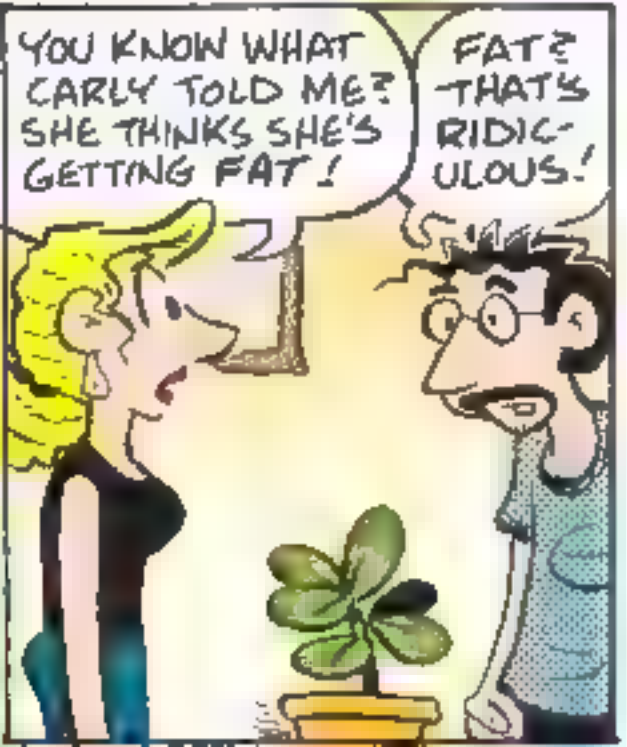

YOU LOOK PERFECTLY NORMAL FOR A GIRL YOUR AGE. IN FACT, YOU'RE ON THE THIN SIDE!
5.17


YOU'RE AWFULLY YOUNG TO BE WORRYING ABOUT YOUR FIGURE.
MOM, I'M ALMOST IN 2nd GRADE!

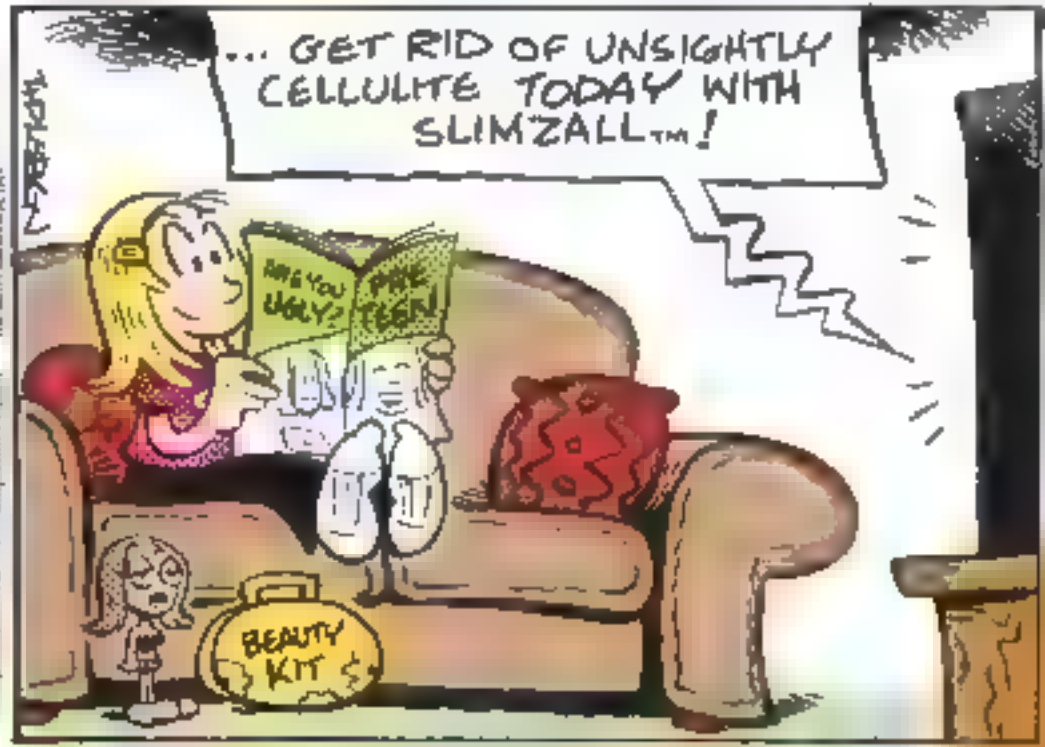

CARLY, DO A LOT OF GIRLS IN YOUR CLASS WORRY ABOUT GETTING FAT?
OF COURSE!

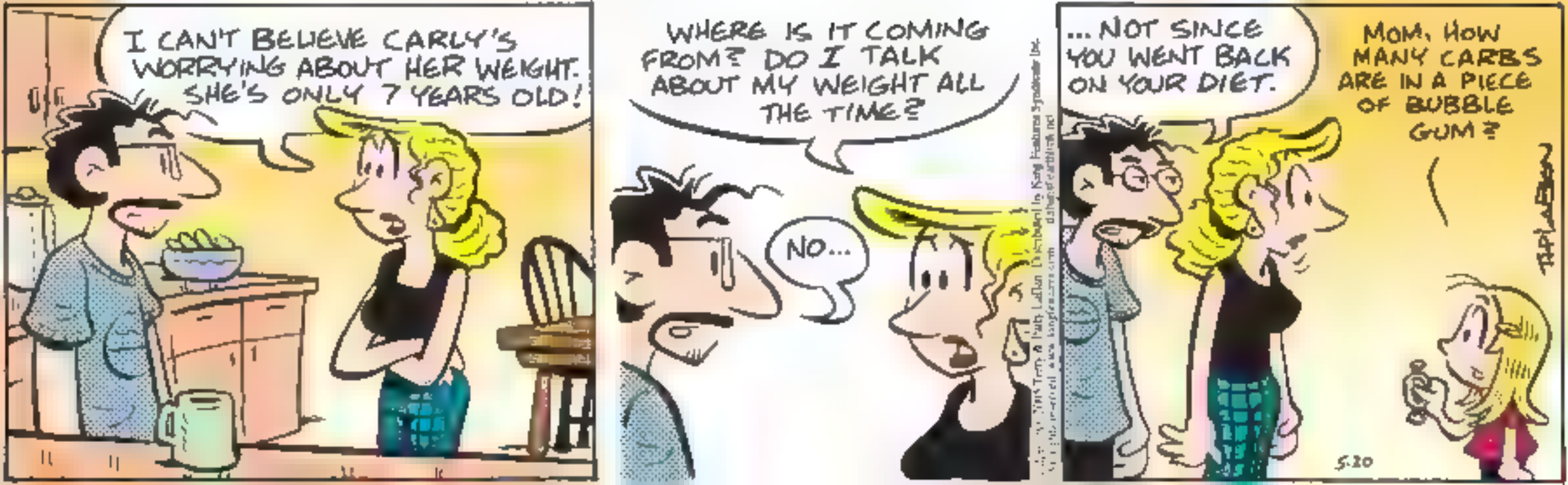
YOU'VE GOT TO LOOK GOOD IF YOU WANT THE BOYS TO PAY ATTENTION TO YOU!

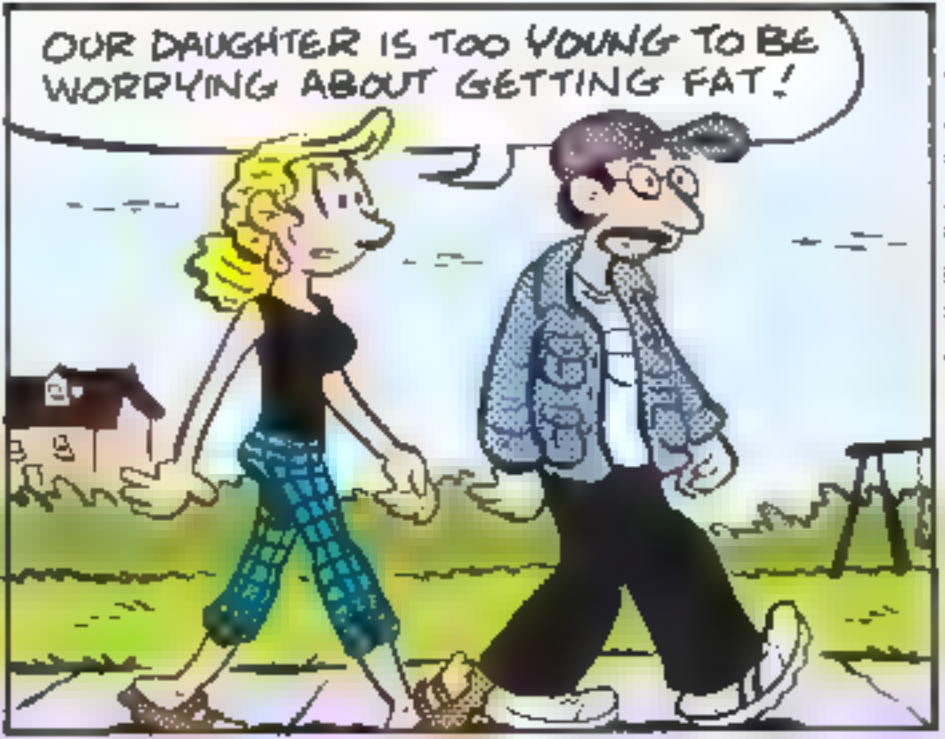

WHAT KIND OF "ATTENTION" DO YOU GET FROM BOYS IN THE 1ST GRADE?
MOSTLY THEY CHASE US AND TRY TO PUSH US DOWN.

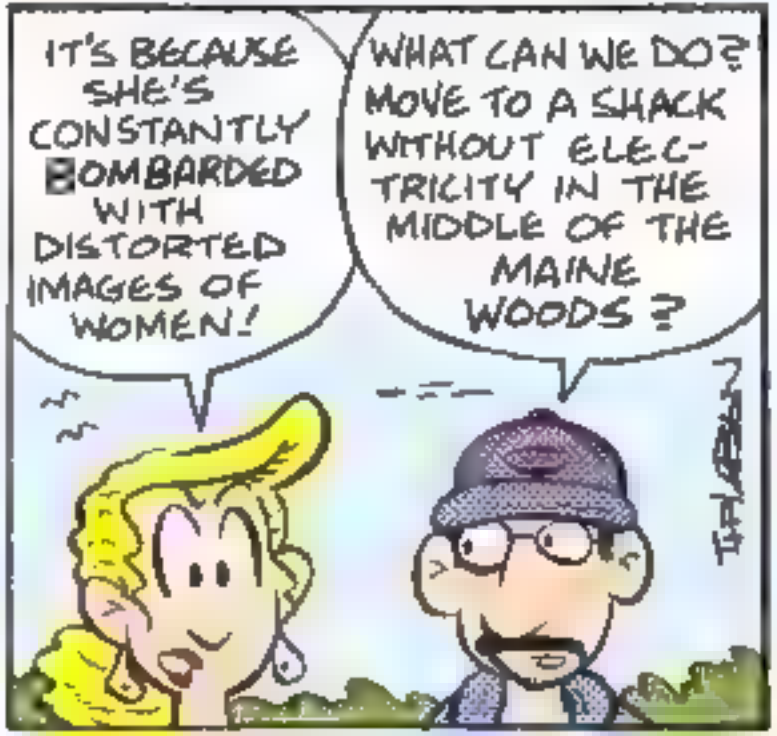

YOU KNOW WHAT CARLY TOLD ME? SHE THINKS SHE'S GETTING FAT!
FAT? THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

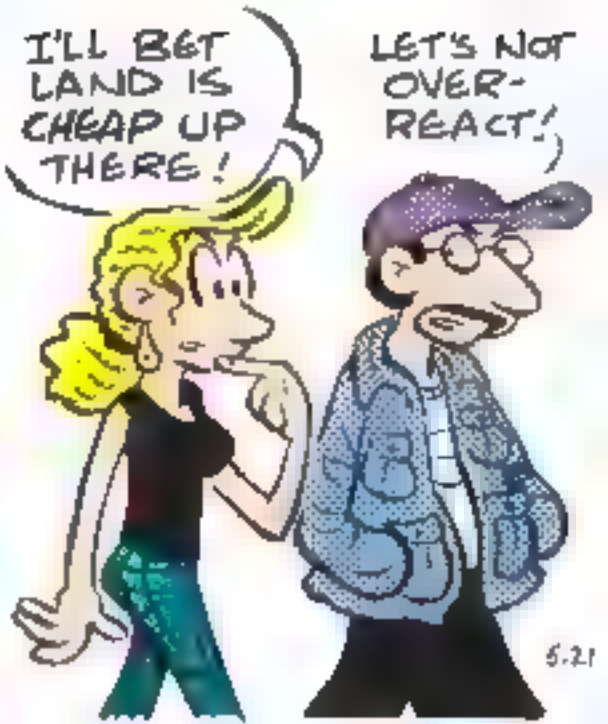
HOW COULD SHE THINK THAT?
REALLY! WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?
5.19

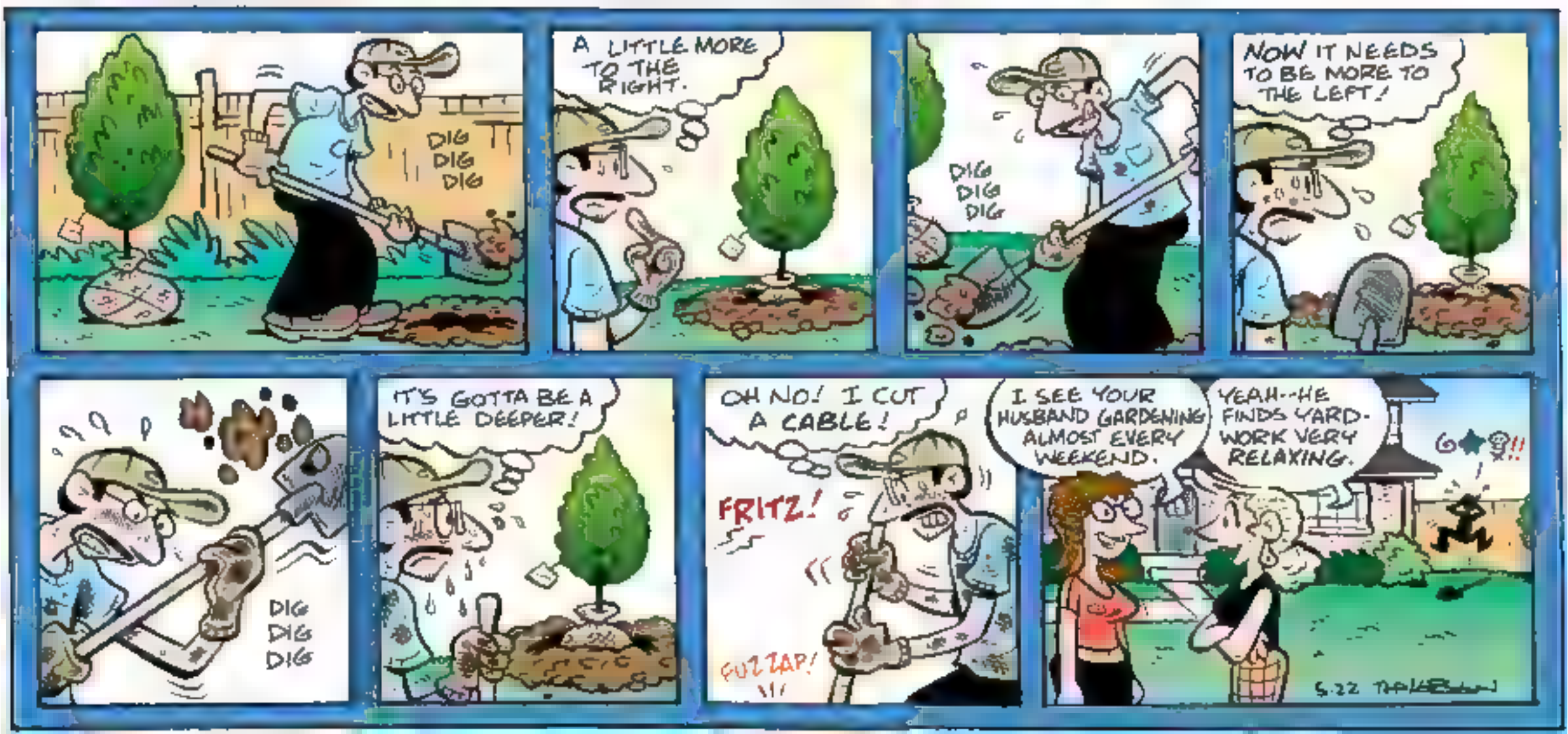

... GET RID OF UNSIGHTLY CELLULITE TODAY WITH SLIM'ZALL™!
ARE YOU UGLY?
PRE TEEN
BEAUTY KIT $


I CAN'T BELIEVE CARLY'S WORRYING ABOUT HER WEIGHT. SHE'S ONLY 7 YEARS OLD!
WHERE IS IT COMING FROM? DO I TALK ABOUT MY WEIGHT ALL THE TIME?
NO...
...NOT SINCE YOU WENT BACK ON YOUR DIET.
MOM, HOW MANY CARBS ARE IN A PIECE OF BUBBLE GUM?
5-20


OUR DAUGHTER IS TOO YOUNG TO BE WORRYING ABOUT GETTING FAT!

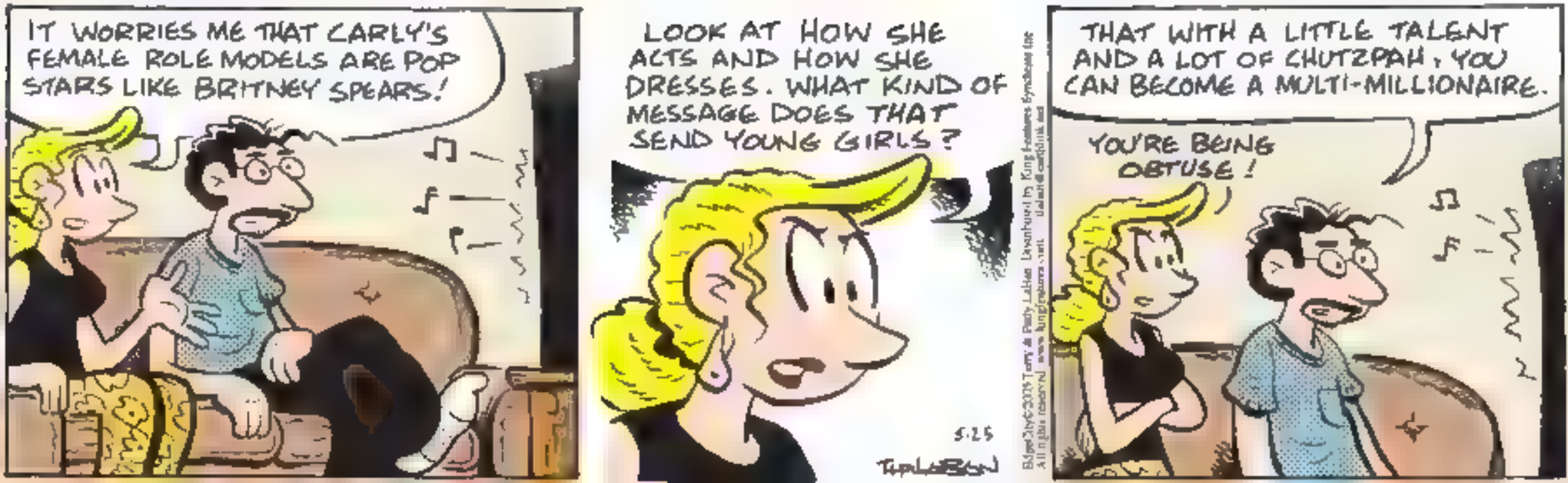

IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S CONSTANTLY BOMBARDED WITH DISTORTED IMAGES OF WOMEN!
WHAT CAN WE DO? MOVE TO A SHACK WITHOUT ELECTRICITY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MAINE WOODS?
TRUDEAU

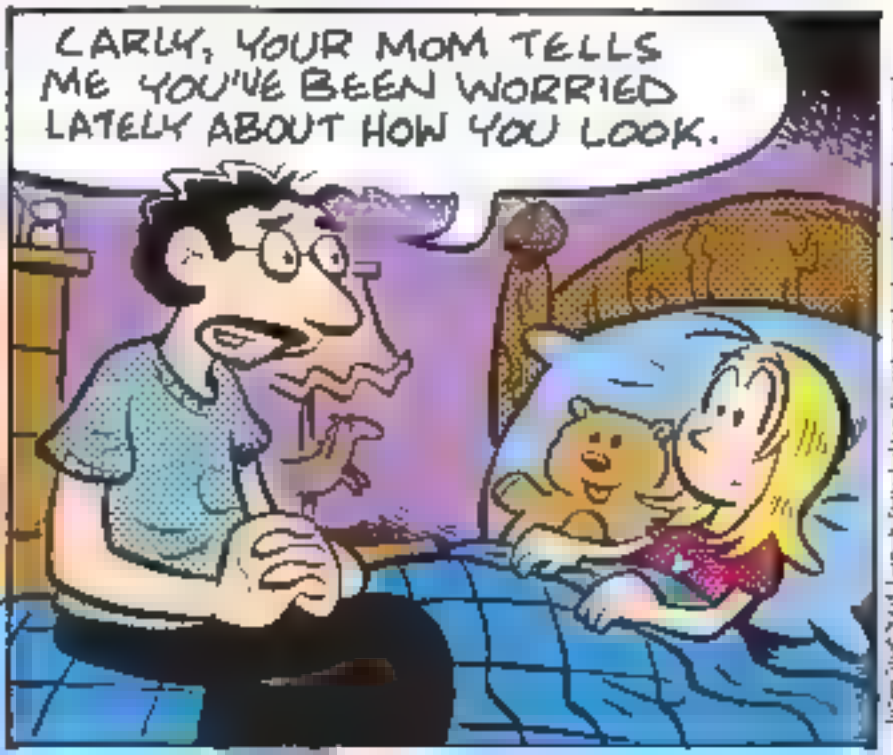

I'LL BET LAND IS CHEAP UP THERE!
LET'S NOT OVER-REACT!
5-21

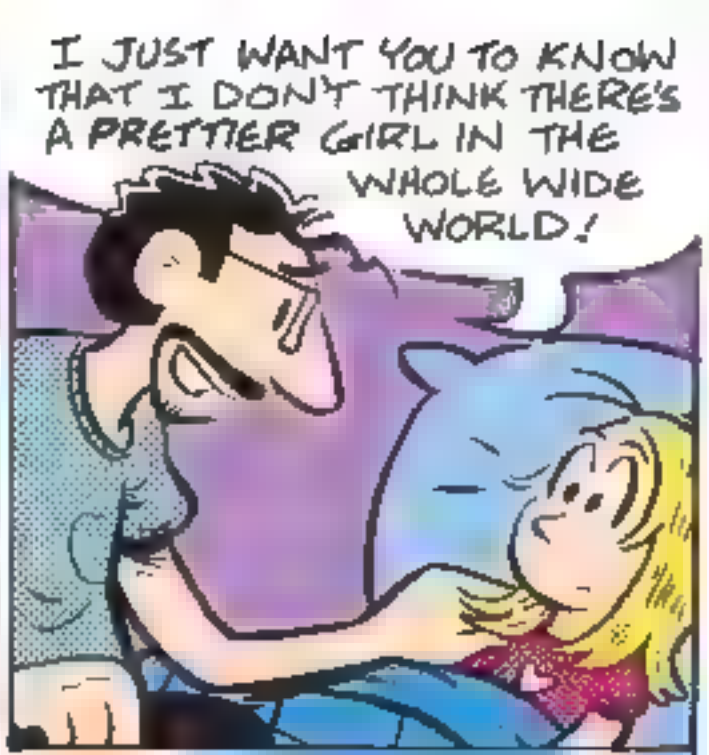

DIG DIG DIG
A LITTLE MORE TO THE RIGHT.
DIG DIG DIG
NOW IT NEEDS TO BE MORE TO THE LEFT!
DIG DIG DIG
IT'S GOTTA BE A LITTLE DEEPER!
OH NO! I CUT A CABLE!
FRITZ!
FUZZAP!
I SEE YOUR HUSBAND GARDENING ALMOST EVERY WEEKEND.
YEAH--HE FINDS YARD-WORK VERY RELAXING.
5.22

IT BUGS ME THAT WOMEN ARE CONSTANTLY TOLD THAT TO LOOK ATTRACTIVE, THEY HAVE TO BE SKINNY!
WELL, DON'T BLAME MEN, ABBY.
MOST MEN I KNOW ACTUALLY PREFER WOMEN WITH A LITTLE...
...ER...
...MEAT ON THEIR BONES!
I SEE...
TRIBUNE
5-23

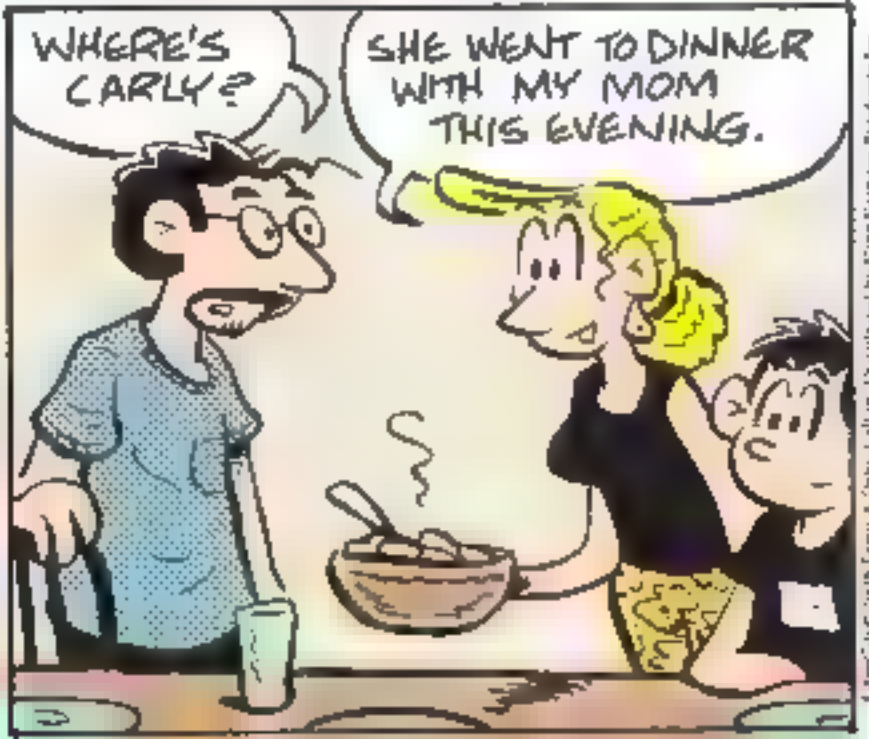
I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR CARLY TO UNDERSTAND THAT HER VALUE AS A FEMALE DOESN'T DEPEND ON HOW SHE LOOKS.
SO, I STOPPED BY THE LIBRARY AND GOT A BOOK ON FAMOUS WOMEN TO READ AT BEDTIME.
HEROINES OF HISTORY
NOW, THIS IS ELEANOR ROOSEVELT.
WOW! I SURE WOULDN'T WANNA LOOK LIKE THAT!
HEROINES OF HISTORY

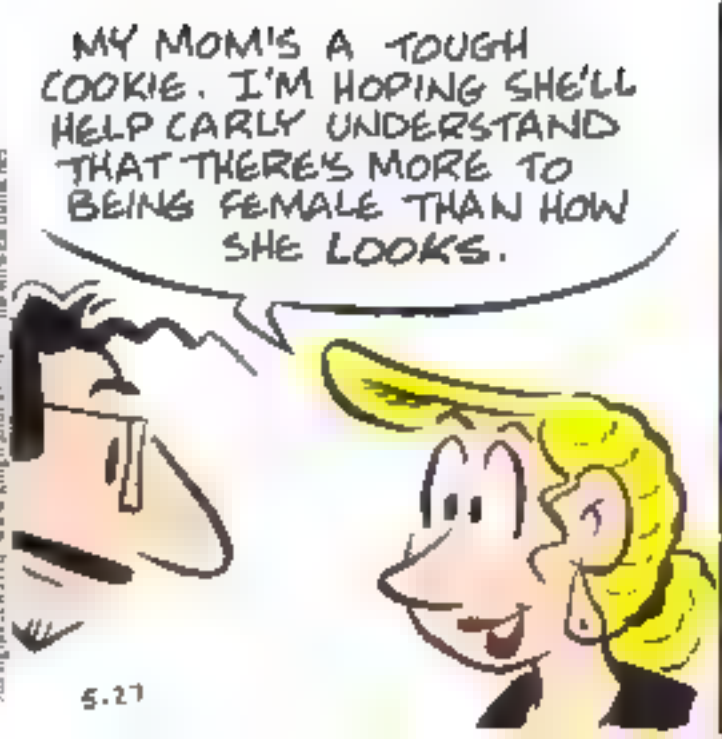

IT WORRIES ME THAT CARLY'S FEMALE ROLE MODELS ARE POP STARS LIKE BRITNEY SPEARS!
LOOK AT HOW SHE ACTS AND HOW SHE DRESSES. WHAT KIND OF MESSAGE DOES THAT SEND YOUNG GIRLS?
5.25
THAT WITH A LITTLE TALENT AND A LOT OF CHUTZPAH, YOU CAN BECOME A MULTI-MILLIONAIRE.
YOU'RE BEING OBTUSE!

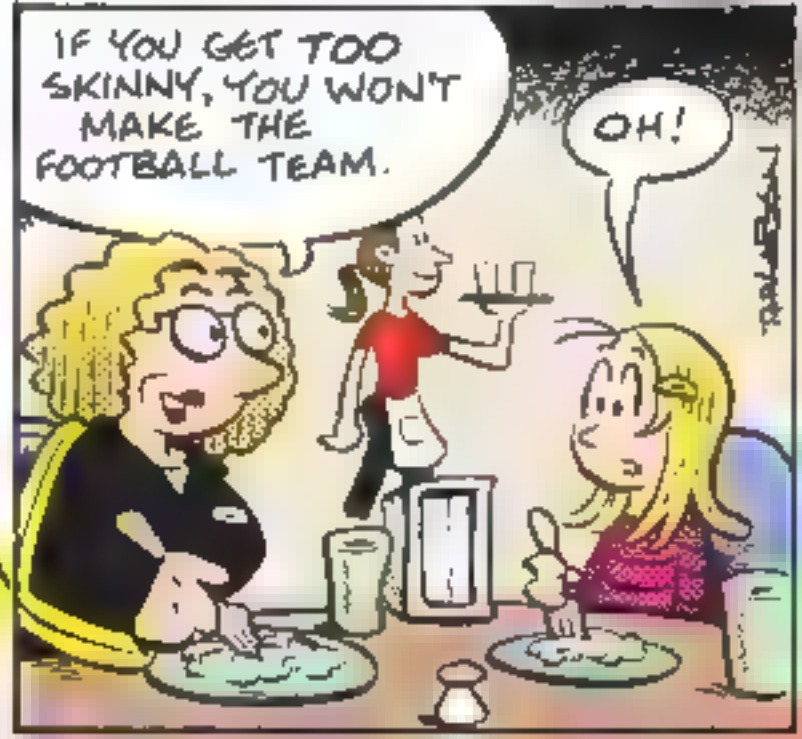

LARLY, YOUR MOM TELLS ME YOU'VE BEEN WORRIED LATELY ABOUT HOW YOU LOOK.


I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I DON'T THINK THERE'S A PRETTIER GIRL IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD!

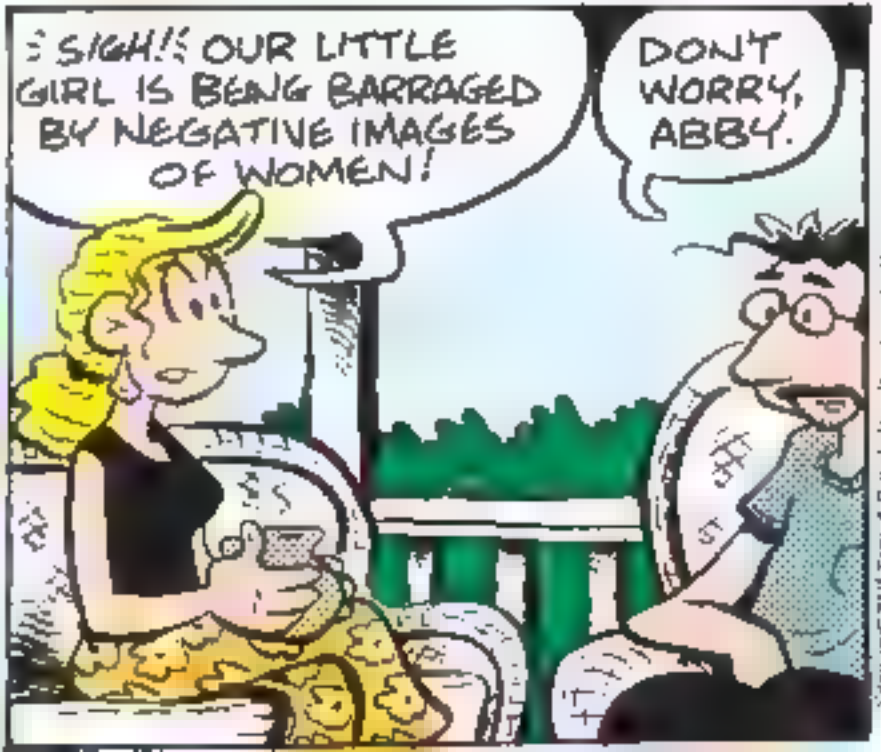
WELL, DUH! YOU'RE MY DAD!
THAT DOESN'T MEAN MY OPINION IS COMPLETELY WORTHLESS!


WHERE'S CARLY?
SHE WENT TO DINNER WITH MY MOM THIS EVENING.


MY MOM'S A TOUGH COOKIE. I'M HOPING SHE'LL HELP CARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THERE'S MORE TO BEING FEMALE THAN HOW SHE LOOKS.


IF YOU GET TOO SKINNY, YOU WON'T MAKE THE FOOTBALL TEAM.
OH!

5.27



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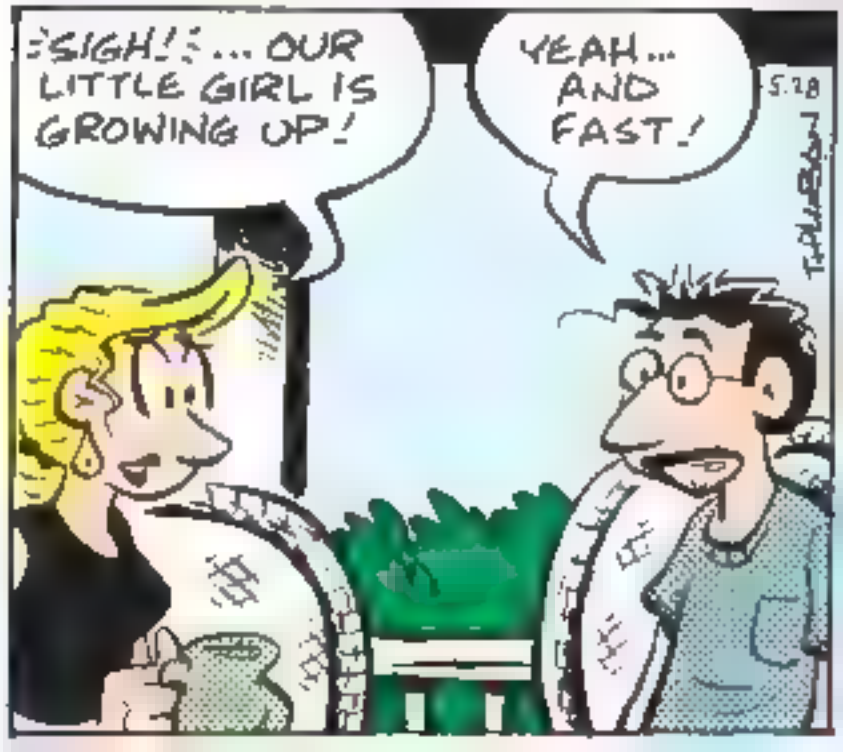
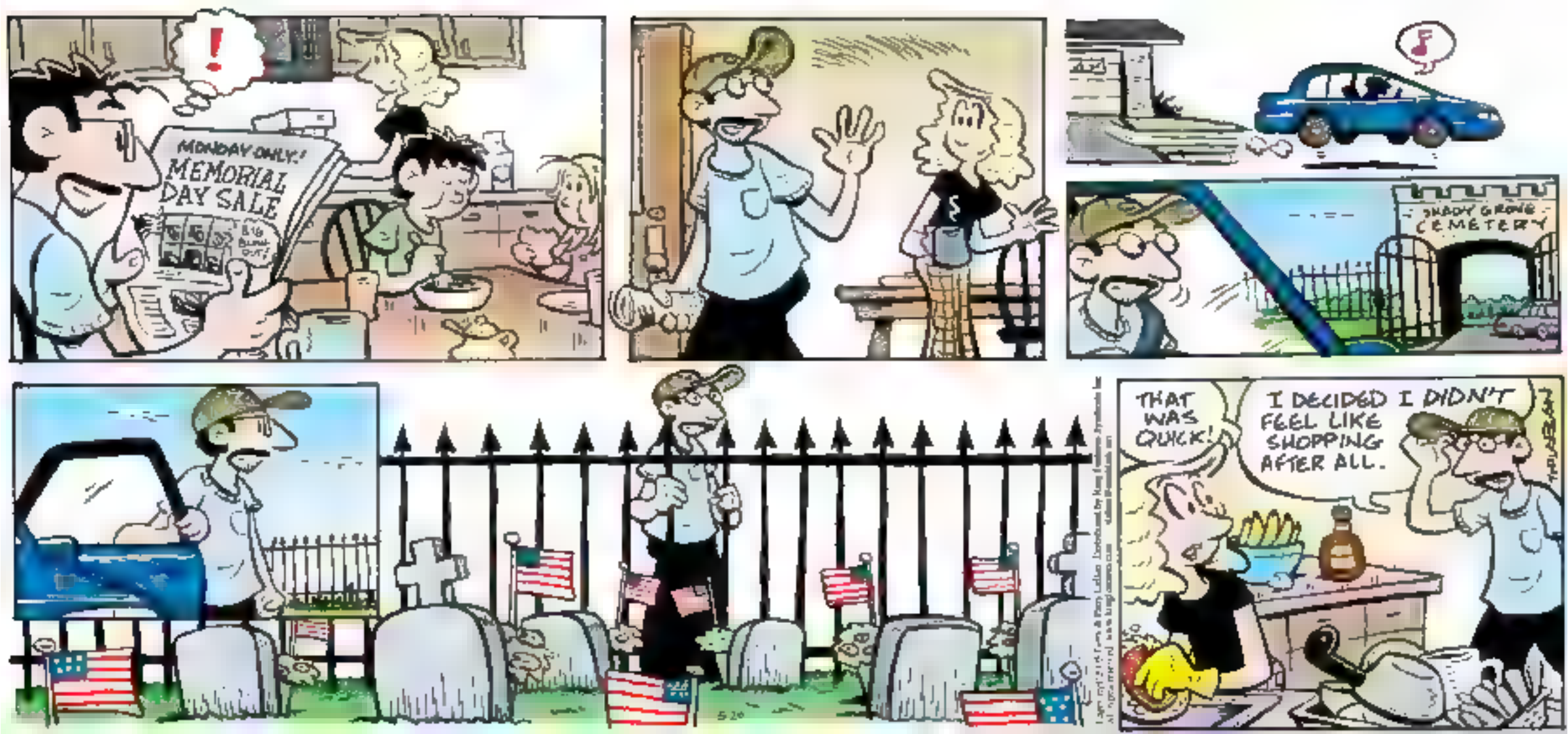
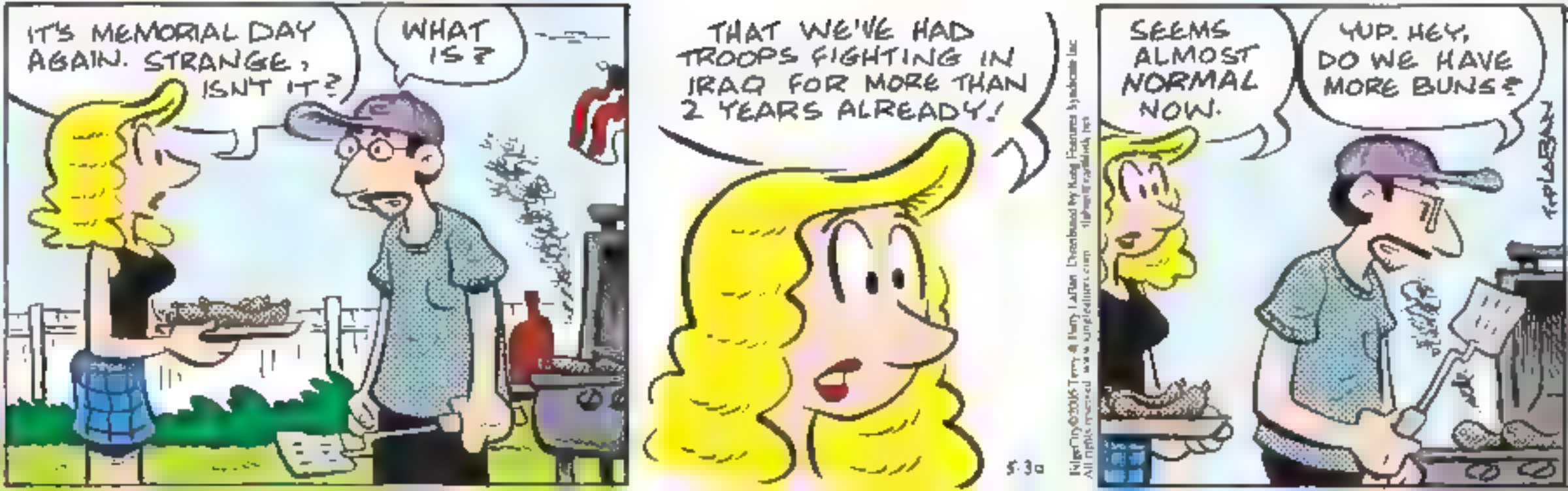
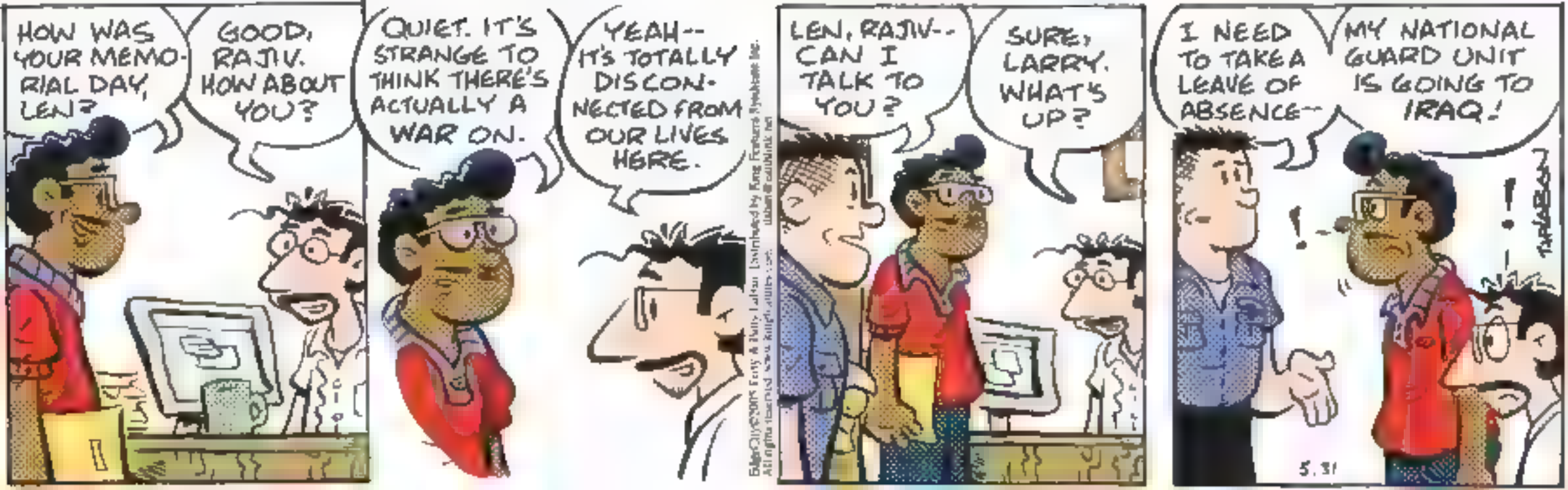
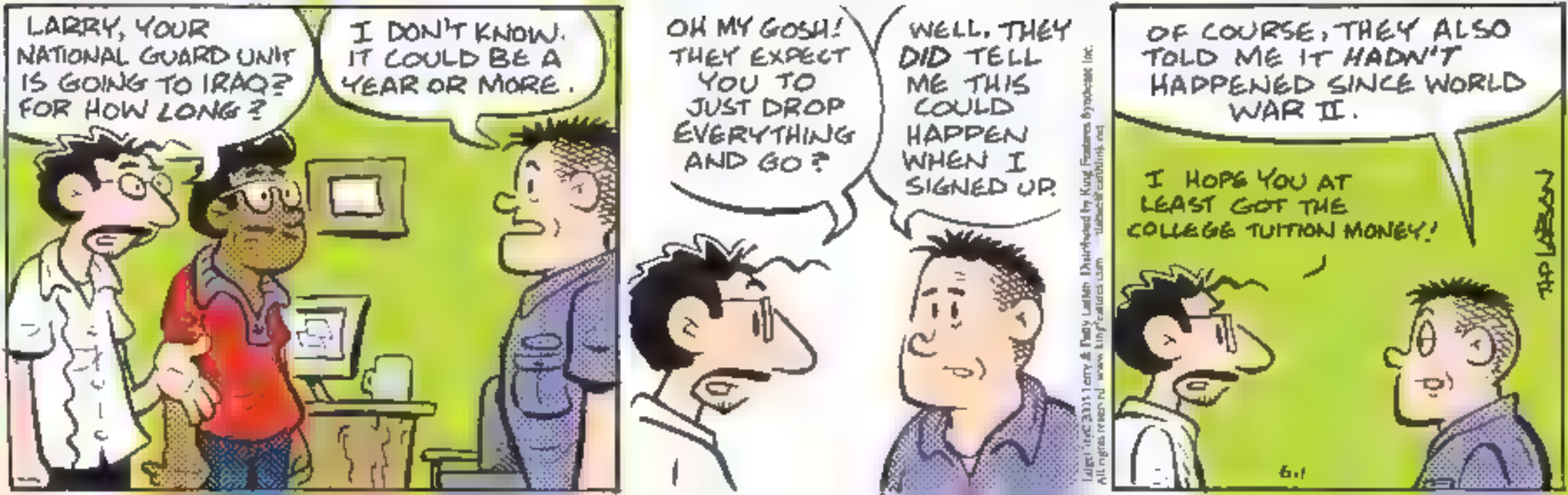
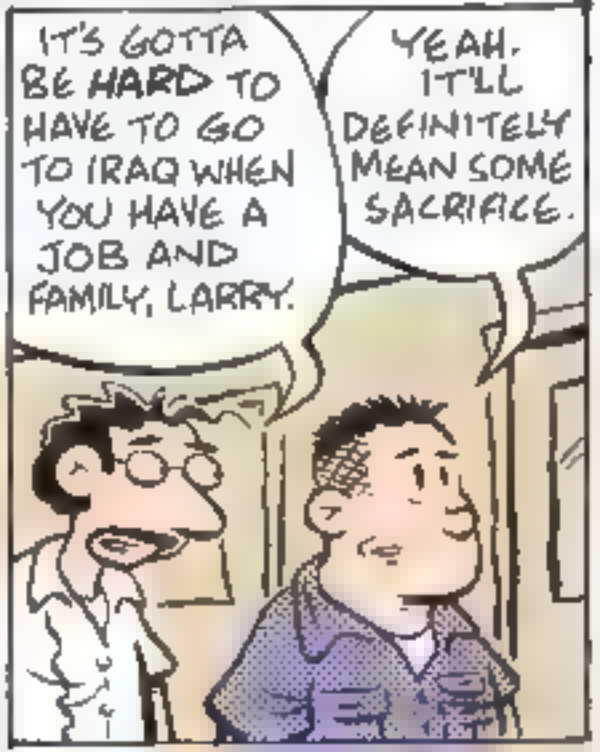



!
MONDAY ONLY!
MEMORIAL DAY SALE
SHADY GROVE CEMETERY
THAT WAS QUICK!
I DECIDED I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE SHOPPING AFTER ALL.


IT'S MEMORIAL DAY AGAIN. STRANGE, ISN'T IT?
WHAT IS?
THAT WE'VE HAD TROOPS FIGHTING IN IRAQ FOR MORE THAN 2 YEARS ALREADY!
5-30
SEEMS ALMOST NORMAL NOW.
YUP. HEY, DO WE HAVE MORE BUNS?
TERRY LABAN


HOW WAS YOUR MEMORIAL DAY, LEN?
GOOD, RAJIV. HOW ABOUT YOU?
QUIET. IT'S STRANGE TO THINK THERE'S ACTUALLY A WAR ON.
YEAH-- IT'S TOTALLY DISCONNECTED FROM OUR LIVES HERE.
LEN, RAJIV-- CAN I TALK TO YOU?
SURE, LARRY. WHAT'S UP?
I NEED TO TAKE A LEAVE OF ABSENCE--
MY NATIONAL GUARD UNIT IS GOING TO IRAQ!
!
!
5.31


LARRY, YOUR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT IS GOING TO IRAQ? FOR HOW LONG?
I DON'T KNOW. IT COULD BE A YEAR OR MORE.
OH MY GOSH! THEY EXPECT YOU TO JUST DROP EVERYTHING AND GO?
WELL, THEY DID TELL ME THIS COULD HAPPEN WHEN I SIGNED UP.
OF COURSE, THEY ALSO TOLD ME IT HADN'T HAPPENED SINCE WORLD WAR II.
I HOPE YOU AT LEAST GOT THE COLLEGE TUITION MONEY!
TOP LARSON



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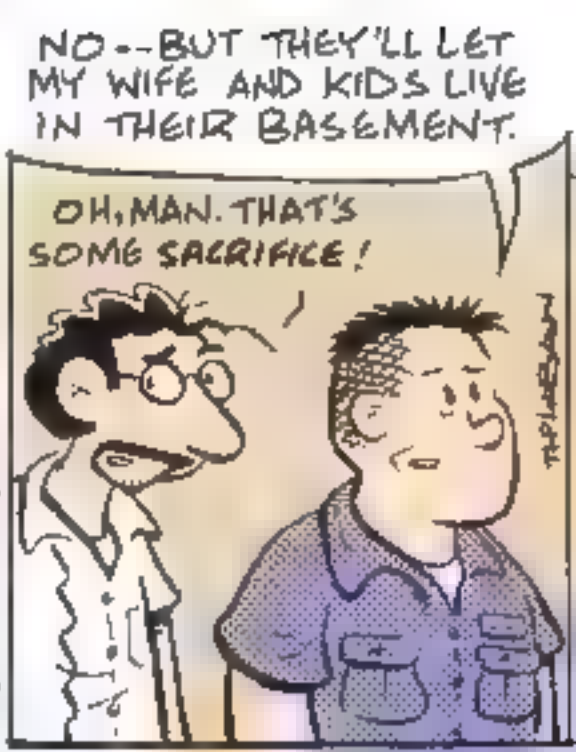
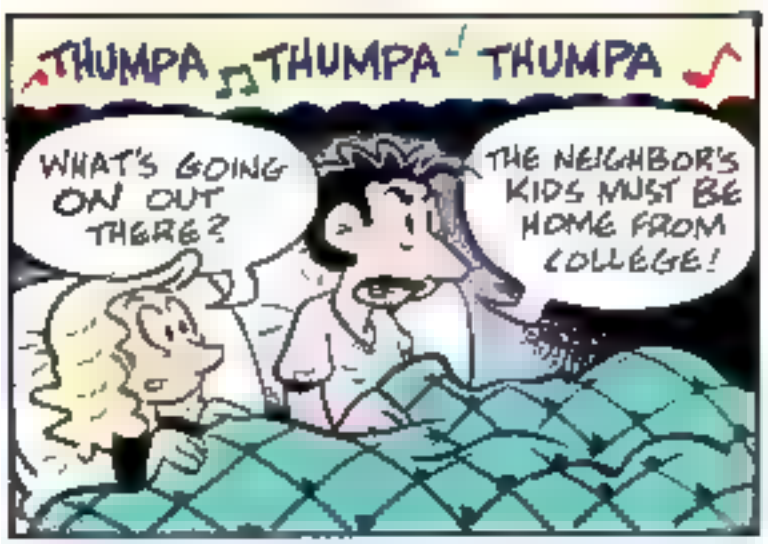


ONE OF OUR EMPLOYEES HAS TO GO WITH HIS NATIONAL GUARD UNIT TO IRAQ!
YOU'RE KIDDING!
ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE WAR SEEMS REAL. I CAN'T STAND BY AND DO NOTHING ANYMORE!
SO, YOU GOT A "SUPPORT OUR TROOPS" STICKER FOR THE CAR?
WELL, IT'S A START.
6-3

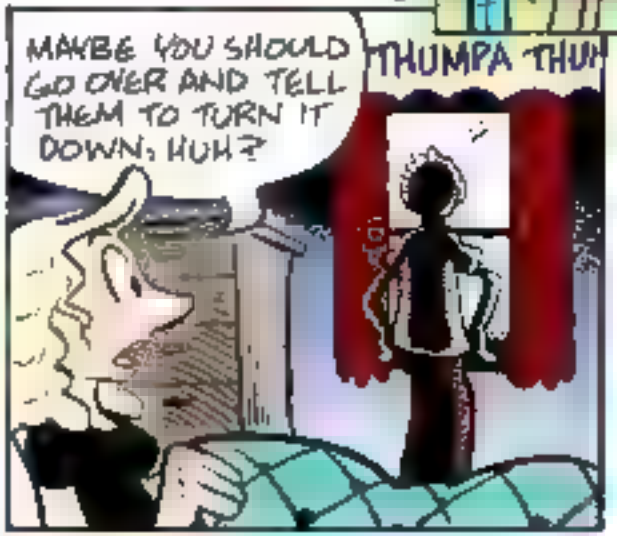
WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING FOR LARRY BEFORE HE SHIPS OUT TO IRAQ.
I AGREE.
WE SHOULD THROW HIM A PARTY!
YEAH-- A BIG PARTY!
SIGH!...
SEEMS KIND OF INADEQUATE, DOESN'T IT?
HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST TO GET HIM A KEVLAR VEST?

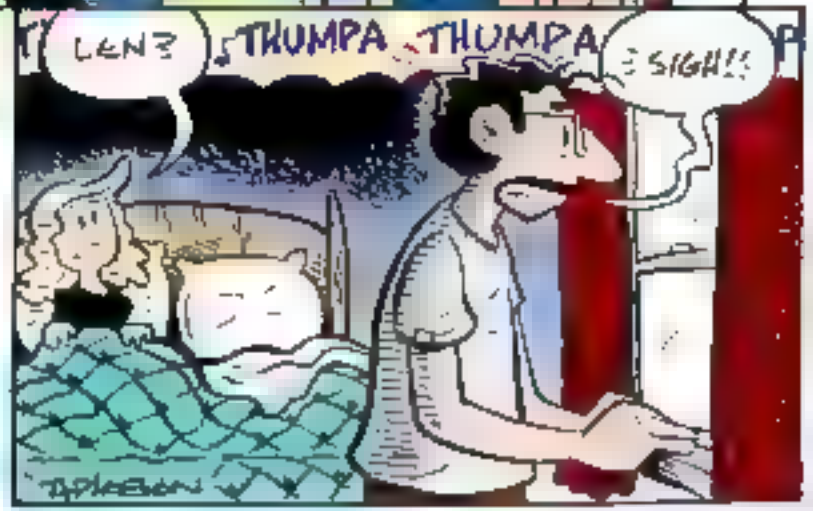

THUMPA THUMPA THUMPA
WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?
THE NEIGHBOR'S KIDS MUST BE HOME FROM COLLEGE!

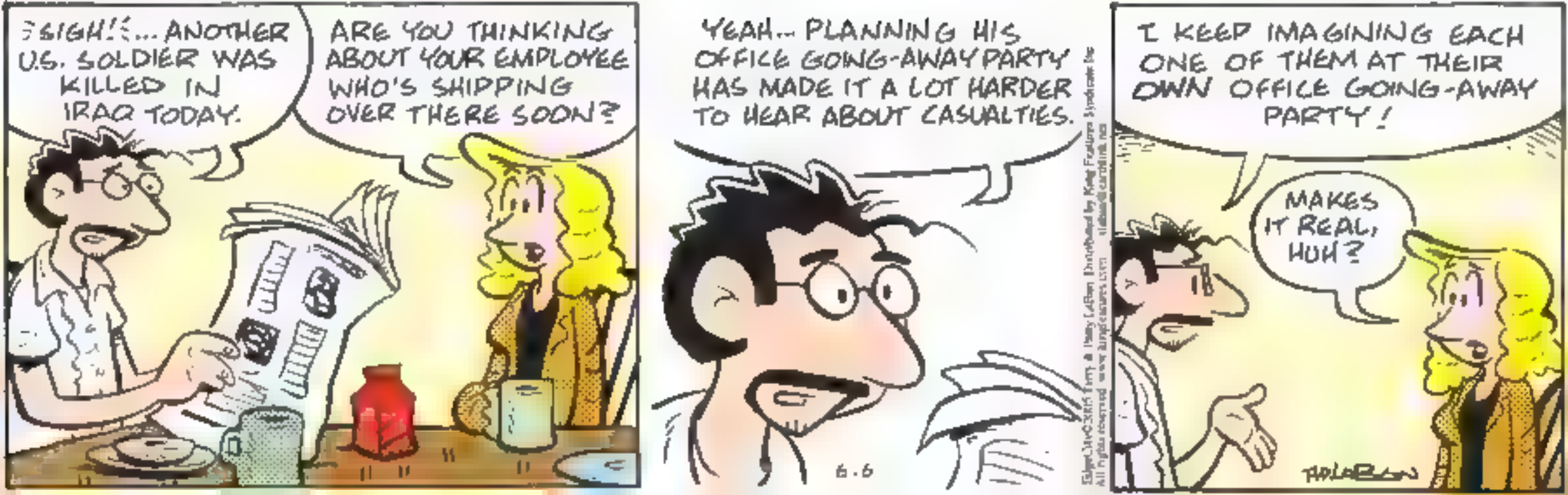
OH, MAN! THERE MUST BE 25 PEOPLE IN THEIR YARD!
MPA
MPA

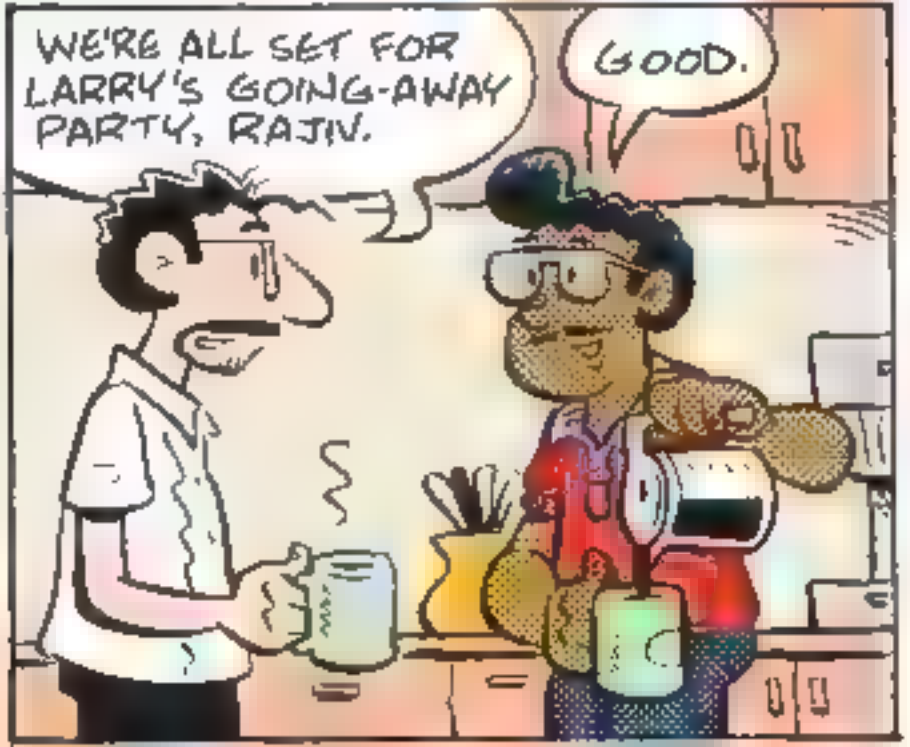
LOOK AT 'EM! I'LL BET NOT ONE HAS ANYTHING THEY HAVE TO DO TOMORROW!
THUMPA THUMPA THUMPA

THEY CAN JUST PARTY ALL NIGHT, COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS TO THE FACT THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO WORK IN THE MORNING!


MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO OVER AND TELL THEM TO TURN IT DOWN, HUH?
THUMPA THUM


LEN?
THUMPA THUMPA
SIGH!!


SIGH!... ANOTHER U.S. SOLDIER WAS KILLED IN IRAQ TODAY.
ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT YOUR EMPLOYEE WHO'S SHIPPING OVER THERE SOON?
YEAH... PLANNING HIS OFFICE GOING-AWAY PARTY HAS MADE IT A LOT HARDER TO HEAR ABOUT CASUALTIES.
6-6
I KEEP IMAGINING EACH ONE OF THEM AT THEIR OWN OFFICE GOING-AWAY PARTY!
MAKES IT REAL, HUH?

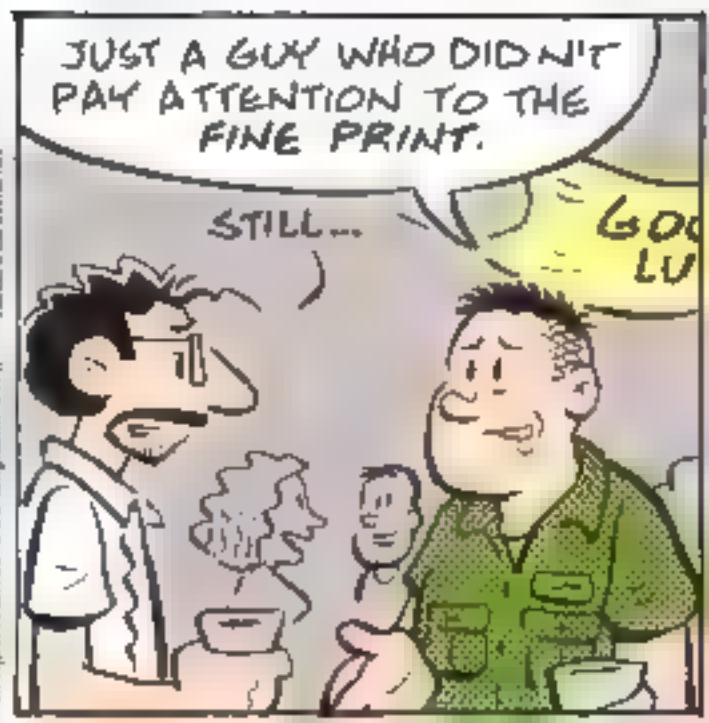

WE'RE ALL SET FOR LARRY'S GOING-AWAY PARTY, RAJIV.
GOOD.

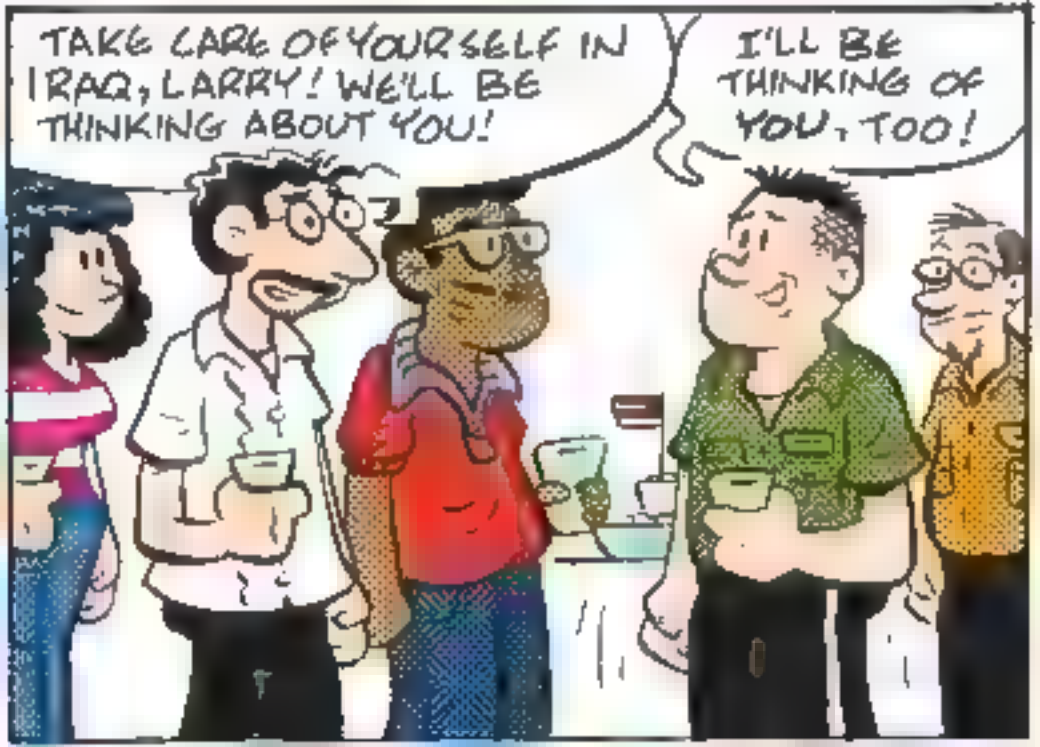
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HE'S GOING TO IRAQ. BUT I'VE REALIZED THAT A LOT MORE PEOPLE ARE GOING THAN I THOUGHT!
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

THE BAKERY HAD A WHOLE LINE OF CAKES SHAPED LIKE HUMVEES.
I SEE...
6-7

LARRY, I KNOW THAT WHEN YOU JOINED THE NATIONAL GUARD, YOU NEVER EXPECTED YOU'D BE GOING TO IRAQ.
GOOD LUCK LARRY
6.8

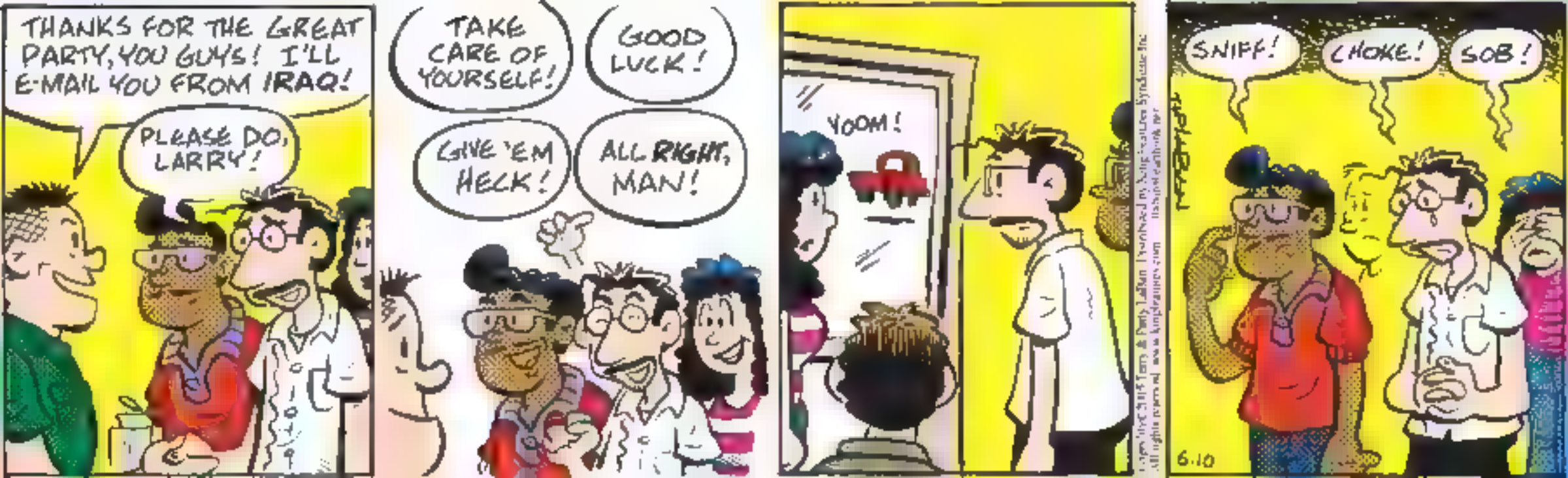
BUT I ADMIRE YOU FOR DOING IT WITHOUT COMPLAINING. I THINK IT'S PRETTY HEROIC.
THANKS, LEN. BUT I'M NO HERO.
THRUBAN


JUST A GUY WHO DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION TO THE FINE PRINT.
STILL...

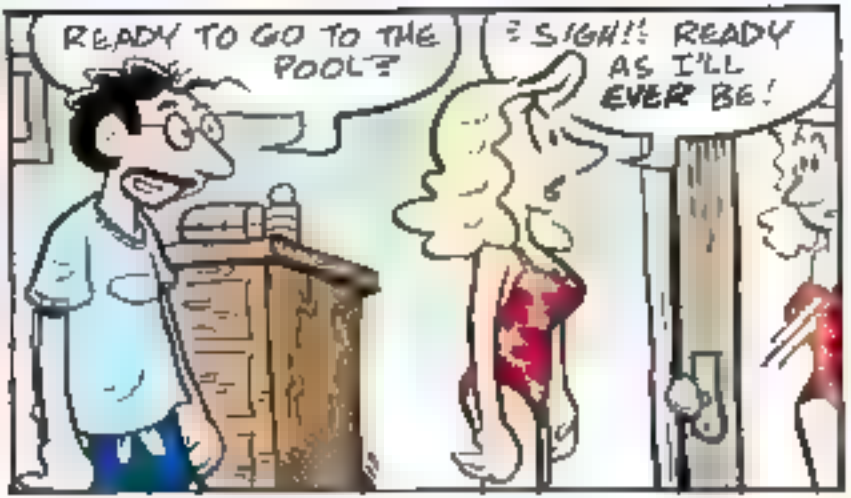

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF IN IRAQ, LARRY! WE'LL BE THINKING ABOUT YOU!
I'LL BE THINKING OF YOU, TOO!

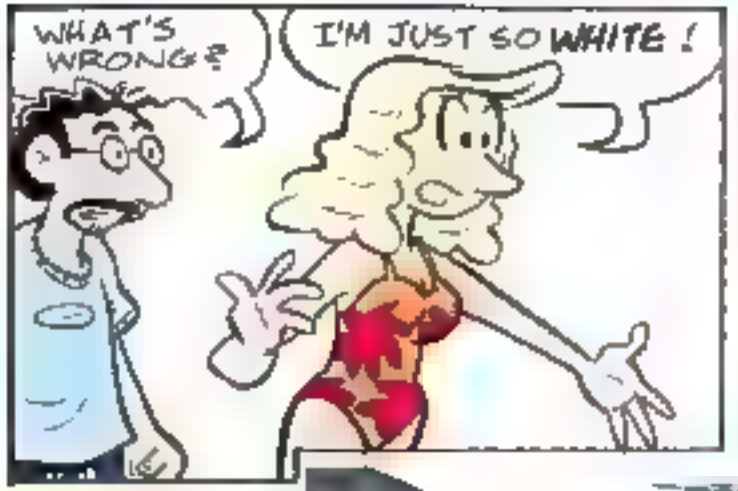
WE GOT YOU A LITTLE SOMETHING WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE OVER THERE.

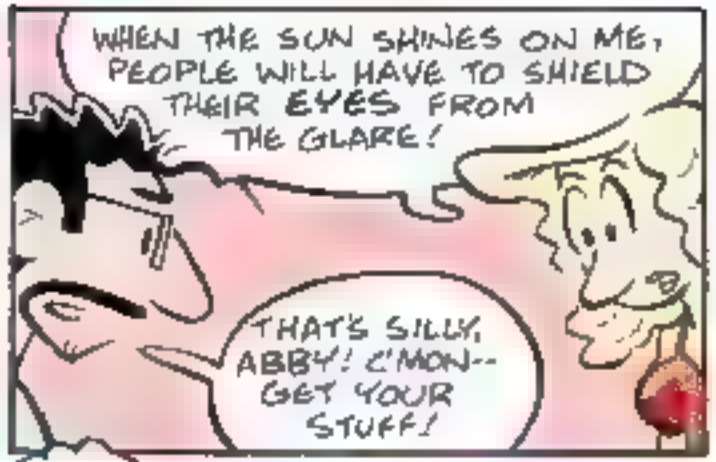
AN I-POD! THANKS, YOU GUYS!
WE PAID EXTRA TO HAVE IT BULLET-PROOFED.
T-P LARSON
6.9

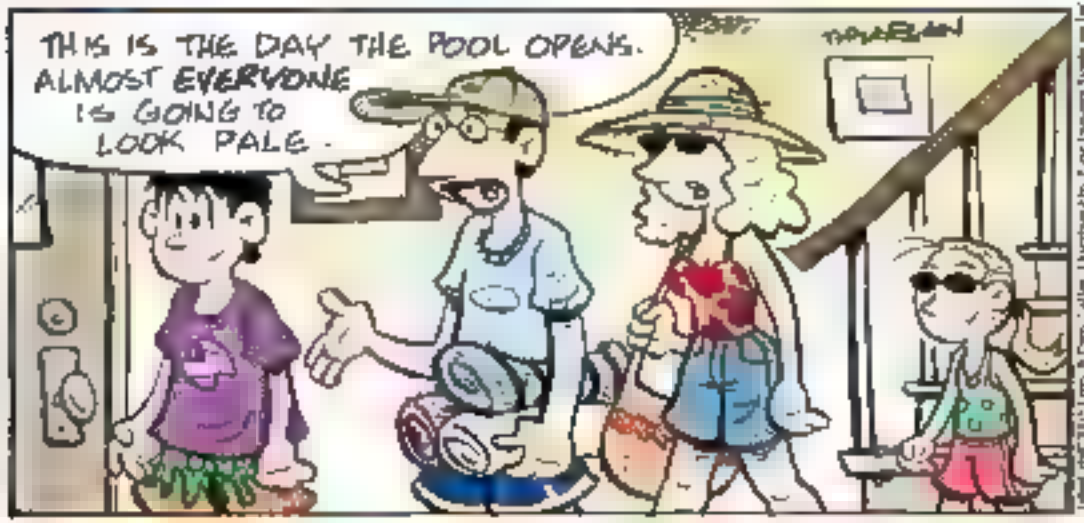

THANKS FOR THE GREAT PARTY, YOU GUYS! I'LL E-MAIL YOU FROM IRAQ!
PLEASE DO, LARRY!
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!
GOOD LUCK!
GIVE 'EM HECK!
ALL RIGHT, MAN!
YOOM!
SNIFF!
CHOKE!
SOB!
6.10

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AS THE GUYS WHO PILE UP SANDBAGS WHEN THERE'S A FLOOD.
THAT IS THEIR USUAL JOB.
BUT NOW THEY'RE ALL IN IRAQ.
WELL, LOTS OF THEM, ANYWAY.
SO, NEXT TIME THERE'S A FLOOD, WHAT'LL WE DO?
PERSONALLY, I'M STOCKING UP ON BURLAP SACKS.
TOPLADON

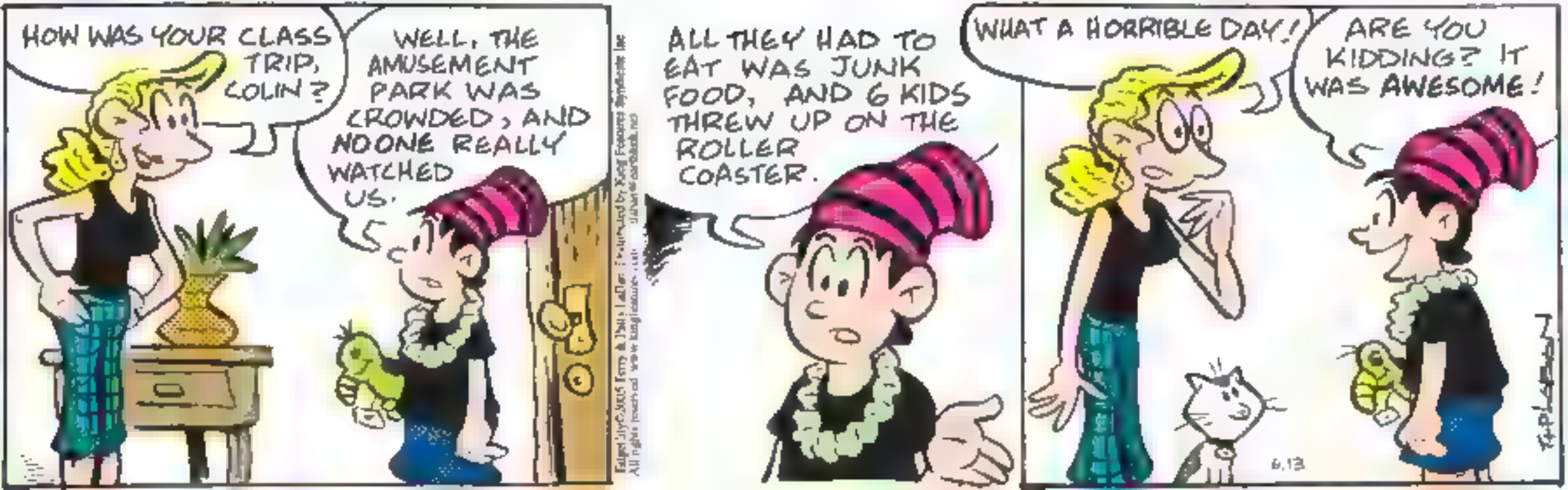

READY TO GO TO THE POOL?
SIGH!! READY AS I'LL EVER BE!

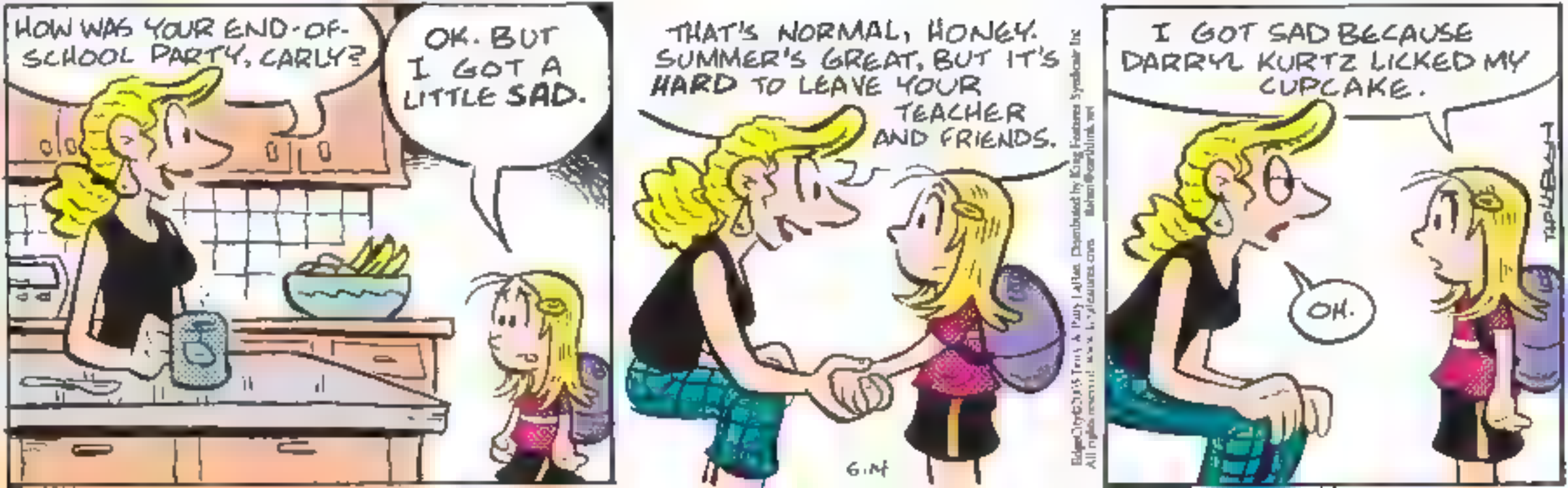

WHAT'S WRONG?
I'M JUST SO WHITE!

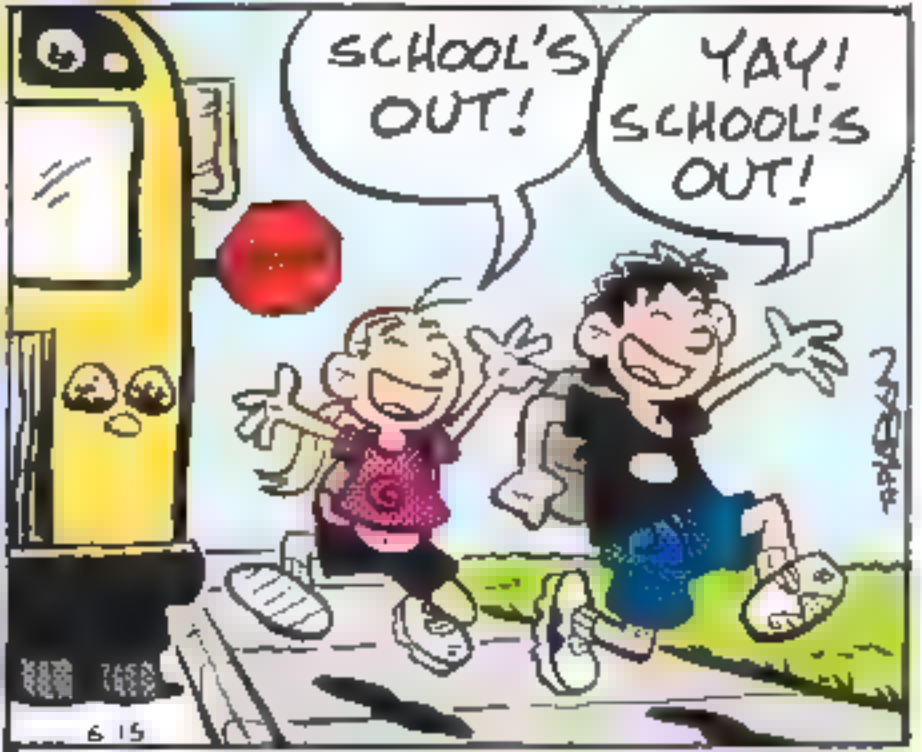

WHEN THE SUN SHINES ON ME, PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO SHIELD THEIR EYES FROM THE GLARE!
THAT'S SILLY, ABBY! C'MON-- GET YOUR STUFF!

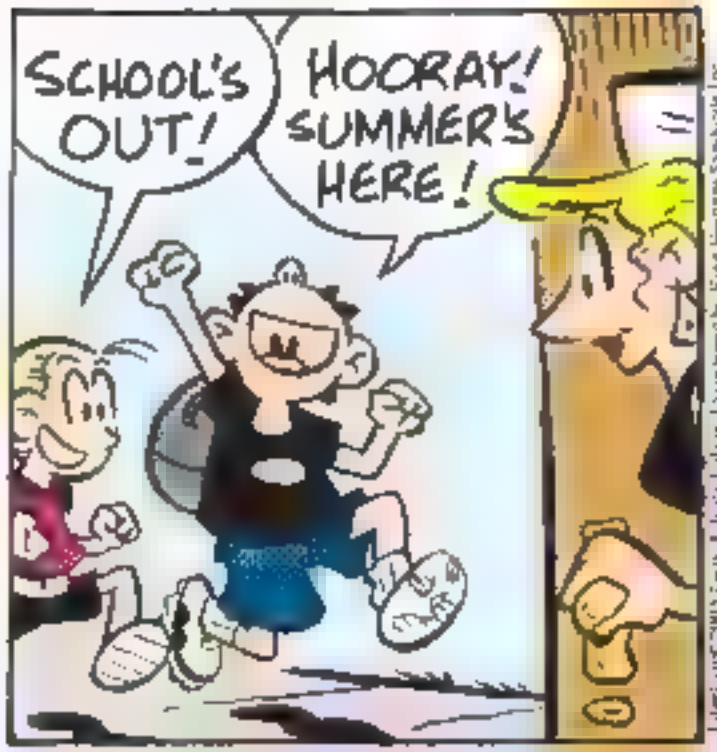

THIS IS THE DAY THE POOL OPENS. ALMOST EVERYONE IS GOING TO LOOK PALE.

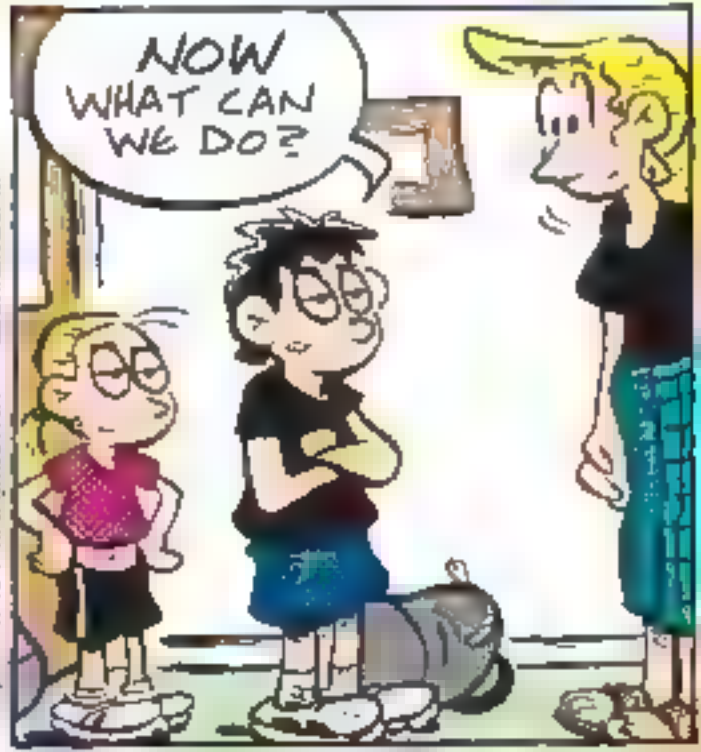
!

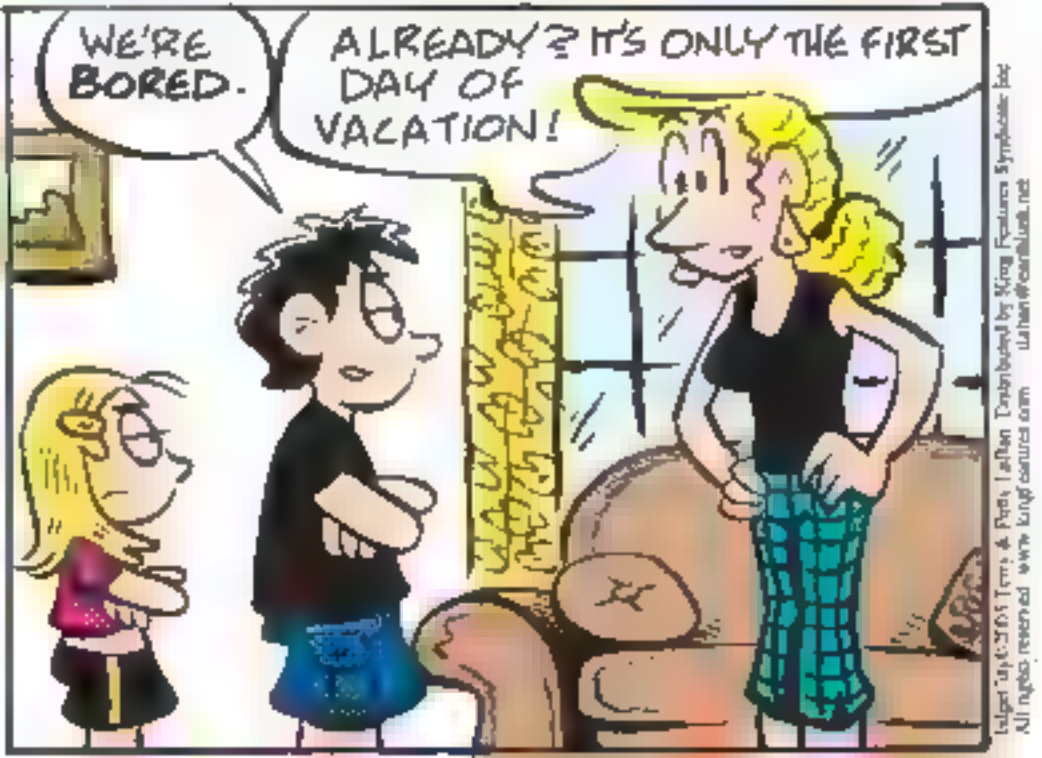

HOW WAS YOUR CLASS TRIP, COLIN?
WELL, THE AMUSEMENT PARK WAS CROWDED, AND NO ONE REALLY WATCHED US.
ALL THEY HAD TO EAT WAS JUNK FOOD, AND 6 KIDS THREW UP ON THE ROLLER COASTER.
WHAT A HORRIBLE DAY!
ARE YOU KIDDING? IT WAS AWESOME!
6.13


HOW WAS YOUR END-OF-SCHOOL PARTY, CARLY?
OK. BUT I GOT A LITTLE SAD.
THAT'S NORMAL, HONEY. SUMMER'S GREAT, BUT IT'S HARD TO LEAVE YOUR TEACHER AND FRIENDS.
G.M
I GOT SAD BECAUSE DARRYL KURTZ LICKED MY CUPCAKE.
OK.


SCHOOL'S OUT!
YAY! SCHOOL'S OUT!
6 15


SCHOOL'S OUT!
HOORAY! SUMMER'S HERE!


NOW WHAT CAN WE DO?



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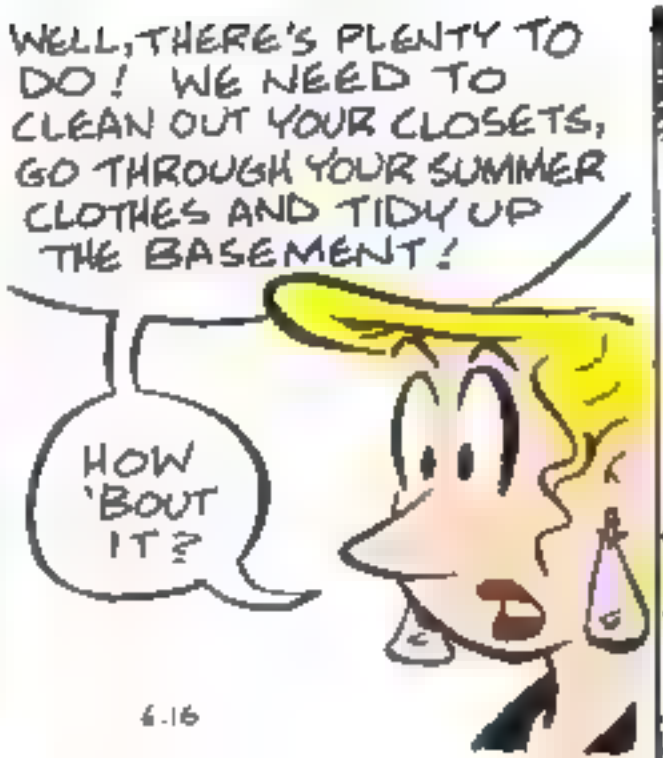
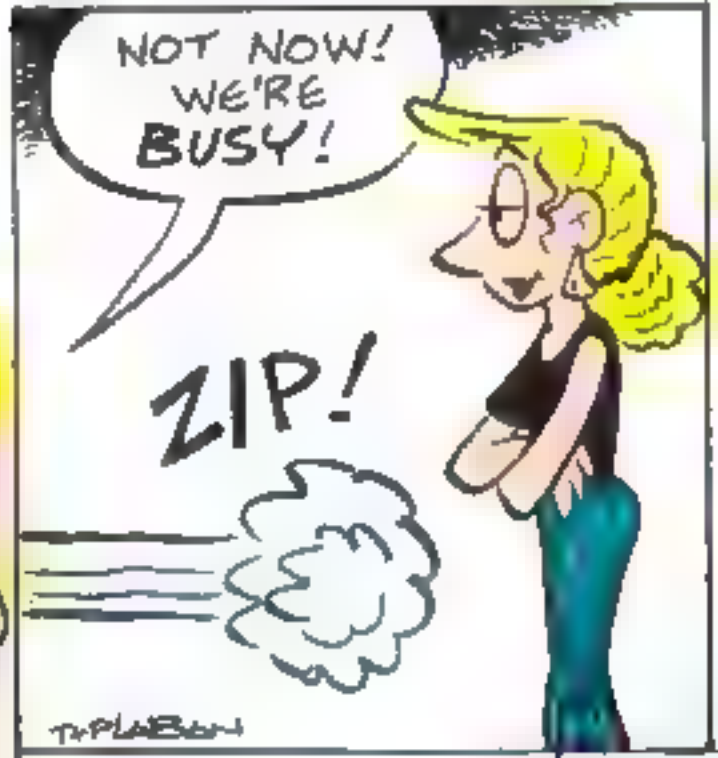
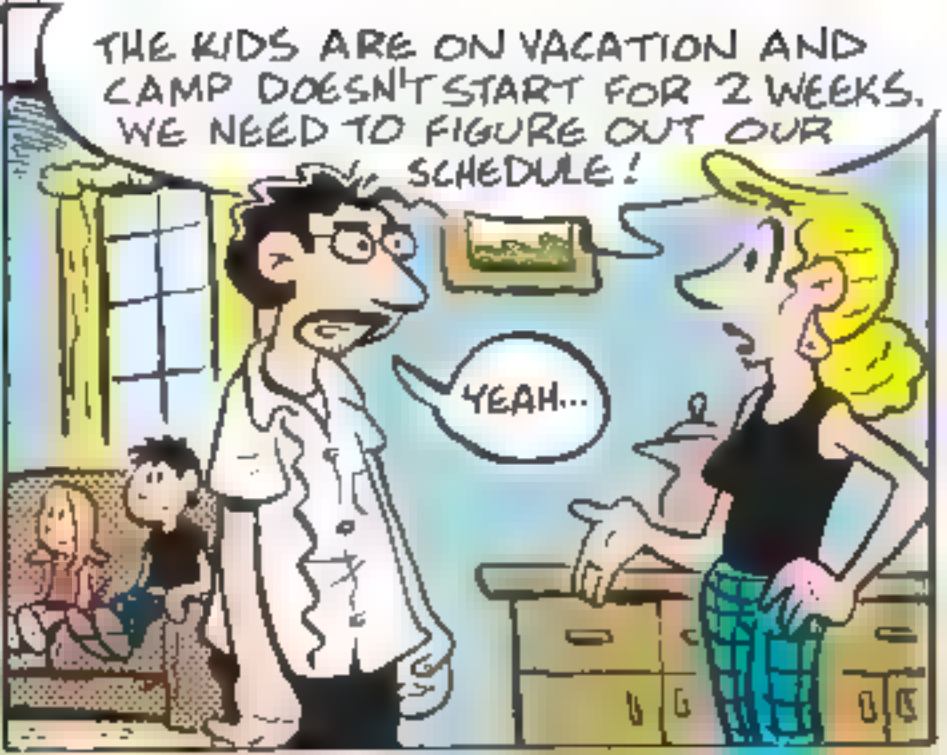
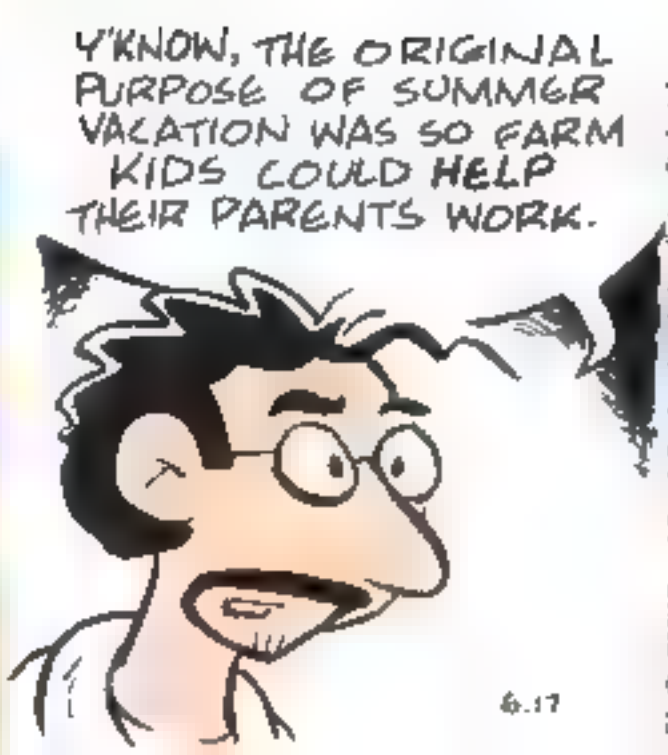
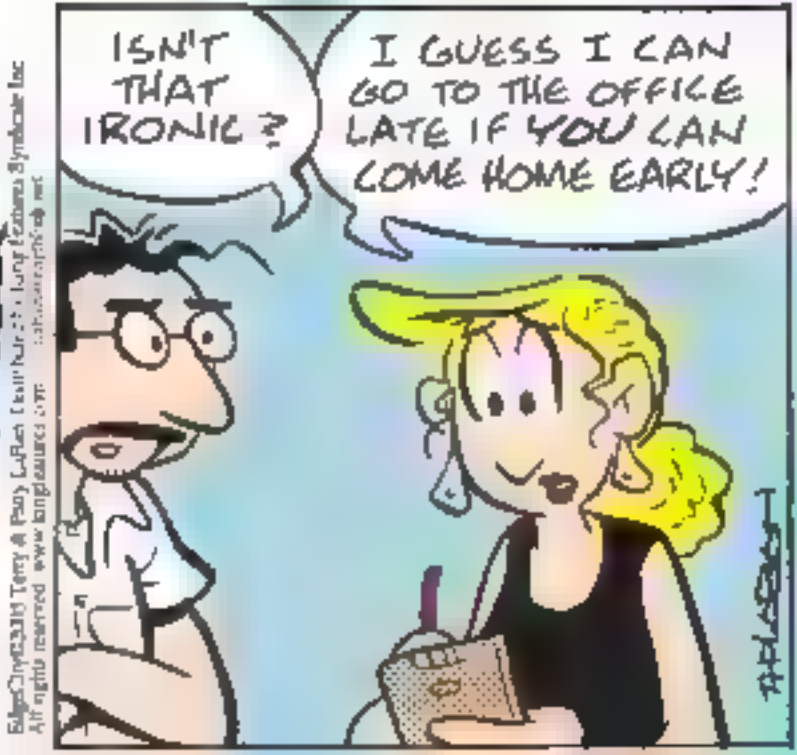
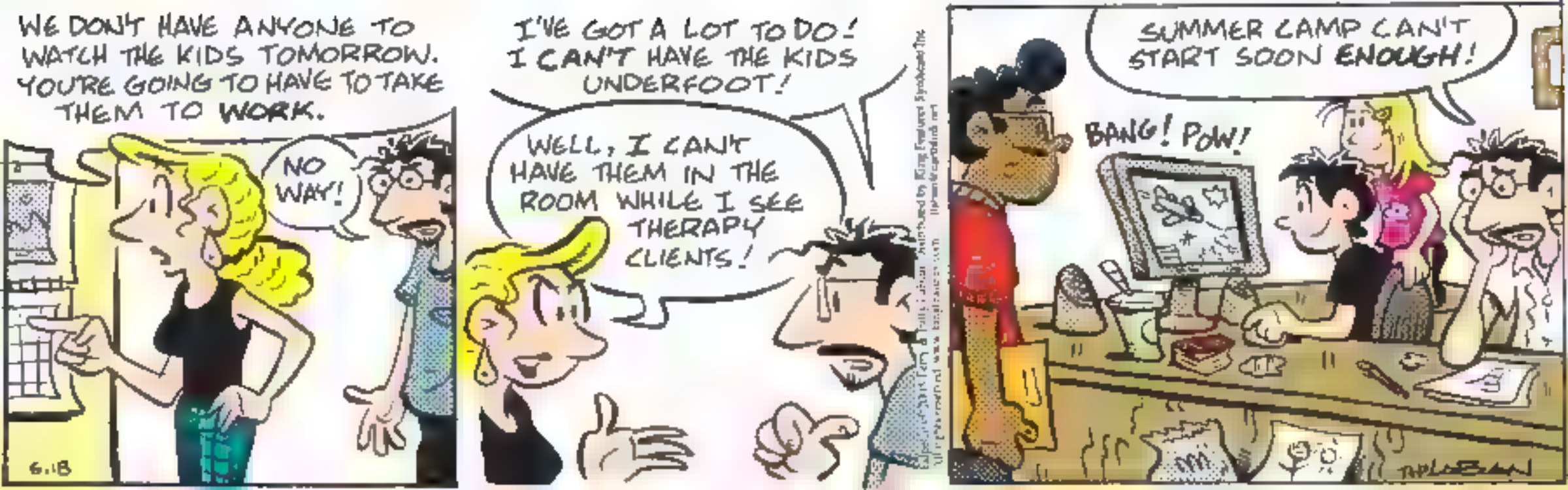


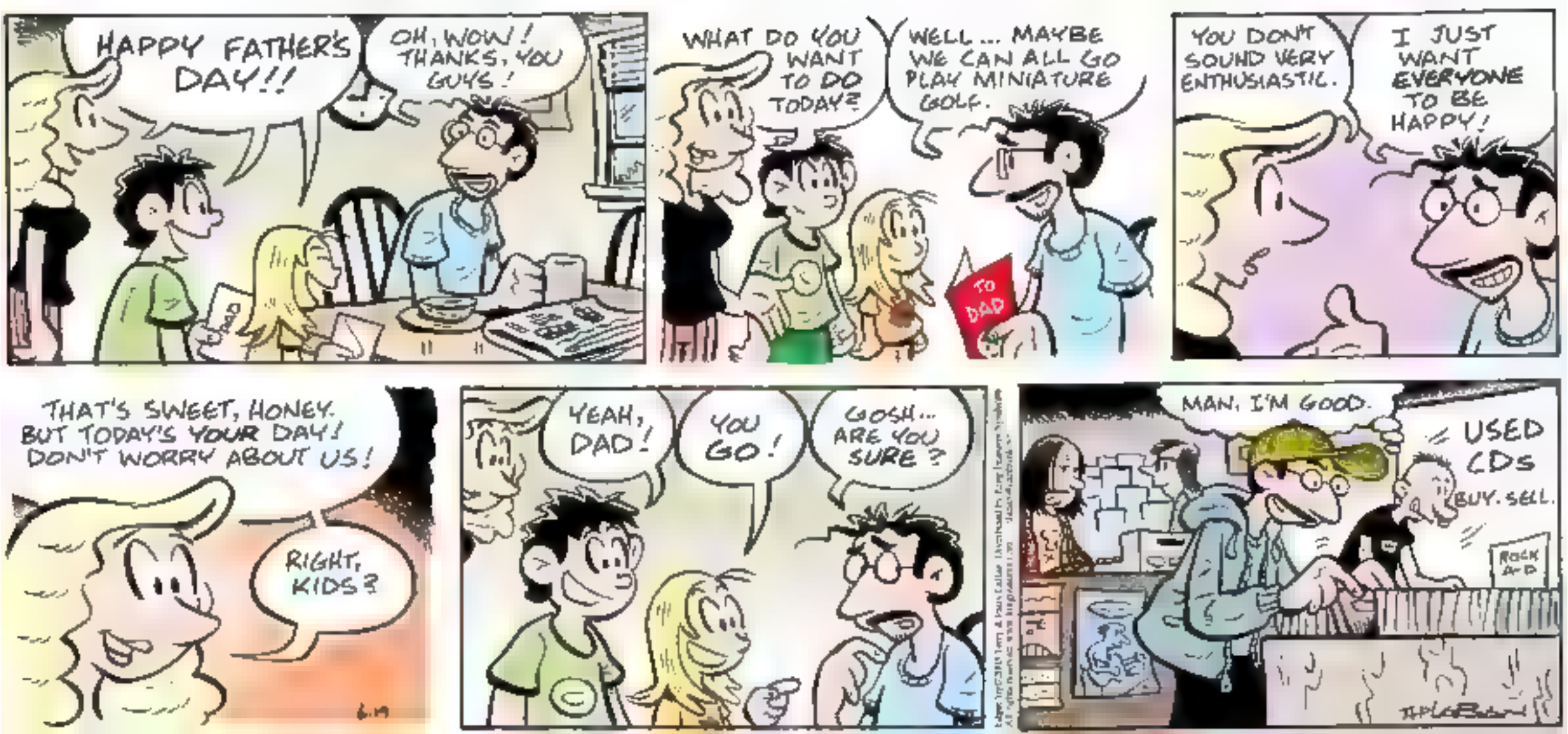


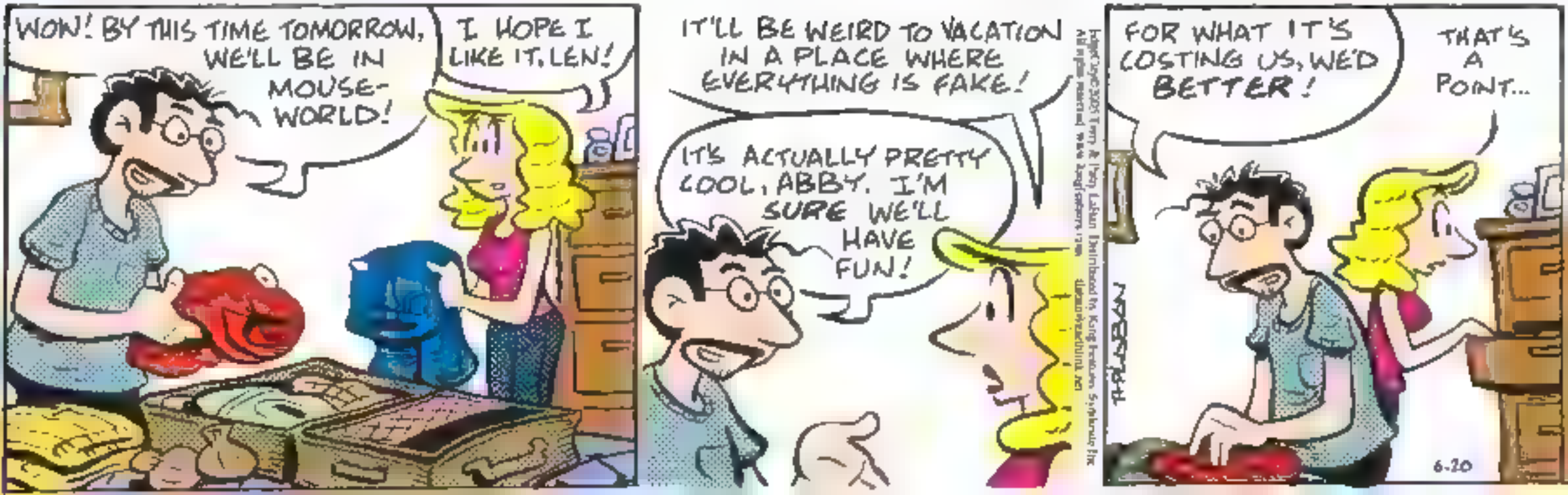

THE KIDS ARE ON VACATION AND CAMP DOESN'T START FOR 2 WEEKS. WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT OUR SCHEDULE!
YEAH...

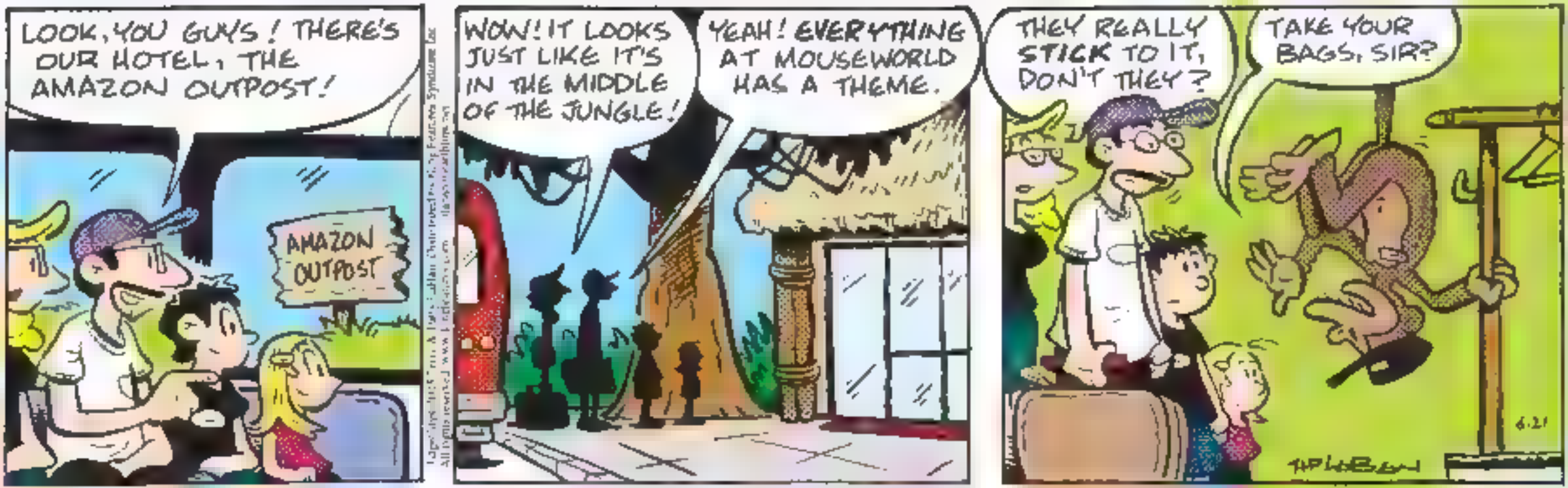

Y'KNOW, THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF SUMMER VACATION WAS SO FARM KIDS COULD HELP THEIR PARENTS WORK.
6.17

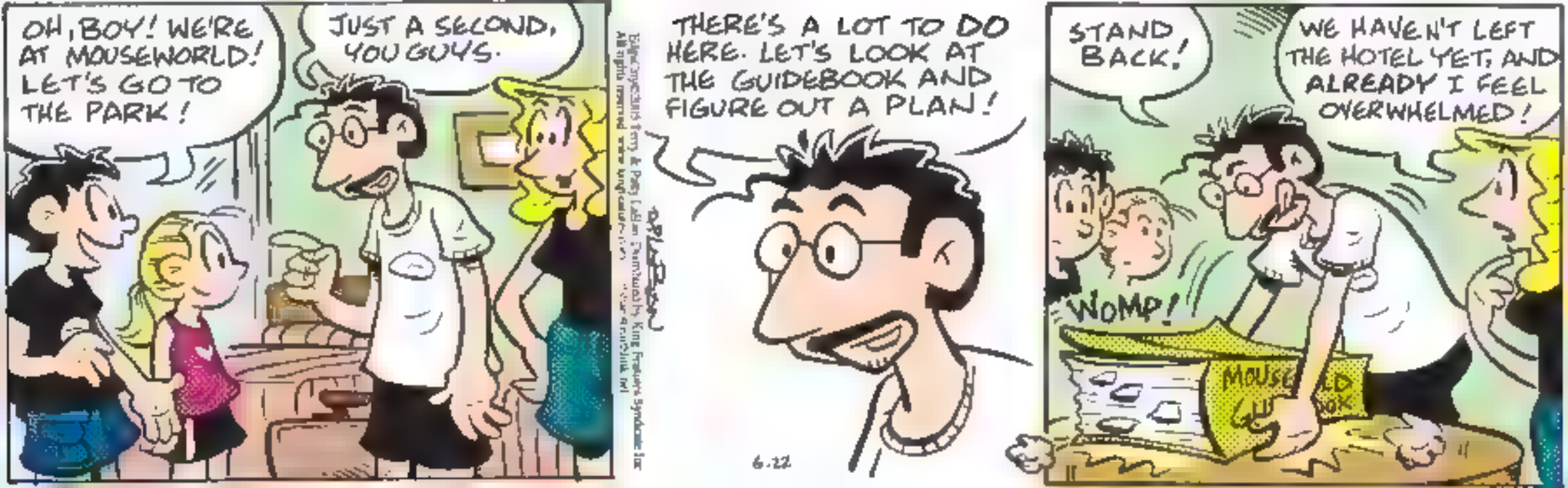

ISN'T THAT IRONIC?
I GUESS I CAN GO TO THE OFFICE LATE IF YOU CAN COME HOME EARLY!

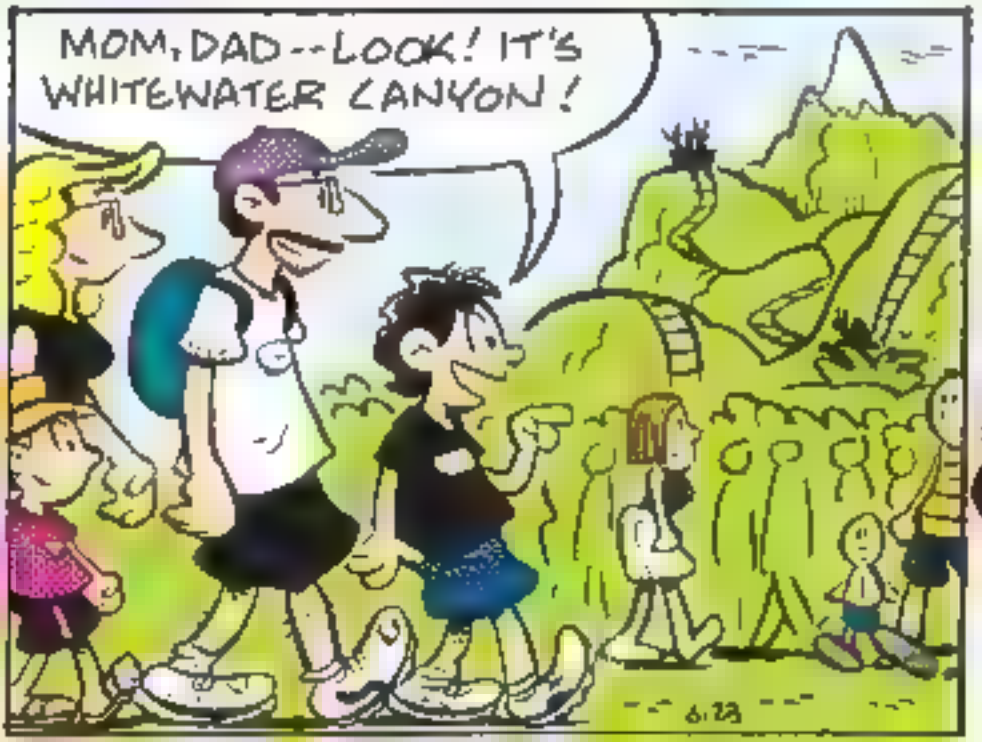

WE DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO WATCH THE KIDS TOMORROW. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE THEM TO WORK.
NO WAY!
6.18
I'VE GOT A LOT TO DO! I CAN'T HAVE THE KIDS UNDERFOOT!
WELL, I CAN'T HAVE THEM IN THE ROOM WHILE I SEE THERAPY CLIENTS!
SUMMER CAMP CAN'T START SOON ENOUGH!
BANG! POW!


HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!
OH, WOW! THANKS, YOU GUYS!
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TODAY?
WELL... MAYBE WE CAN ALL GO PLAY MINIATURE GOLF.
TO DAD
YOU DON'T SOUND VERY ENTHUSIASTIC.
I JUST WANT EVERYONE TO BE HAPPY!
THAT'S SWEET, HONEY. BUT TODAY'S YOUR DAY! DON'T WORRY ABOUT US!
RIGHT, KIDS?
YEAH, DAD!
YOU GO!
GOSH... ARE YOU SURE?
MAN, I'M GOOD.
USED CDs
BUY. SELL.
ROCK A-D


WOW! BY THIS TIME TOMORROW, WE'LL BE IN MOUSE-WORLD!
I HOPE I LIKE IT, LEN!
IT'LL BE WEIRD TO VACATION IN A PLACE WHERE EVERYTHING IS FAKE!
IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY COOL, ABBY. I'M SURE WE'LL HAVE FUN!
FOR WHAT IT'S COSTING US, WE'D BETTER!
THAT'S A POINT...
THRABAN
6-20


LOOK, YOU GUYS! THERE'S OUR HOTEL, THE AMAZON OUTPOST!
AMAZON OUTPOST
WOW! IT LOOKS JUST LIKE IT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF THE JUNGLE!
YEAH! EVERYTHING AT MOUSEWORLD HAS A THEME.
THEY REALLY STICK TO IT, DON'T THEY?
TAKE YOUR BAGS, SIR?
6.21


OH, BOY! WE'RE AT MOUSEWORLD! LET'S GO TO THE PARK!
JUST A SECOND, YOU GUYS.
THERE'S A LOT TO DO HERE. LET'S LOOK AT THE GUIDEBOOK AND FIGURE OUT A PLAN!
STAND BACK!
WE HAVEN'T LEFT THE HOTEL YET, AND ALREADY I FEEL OVERWHELMED!
WOMP!
6.22

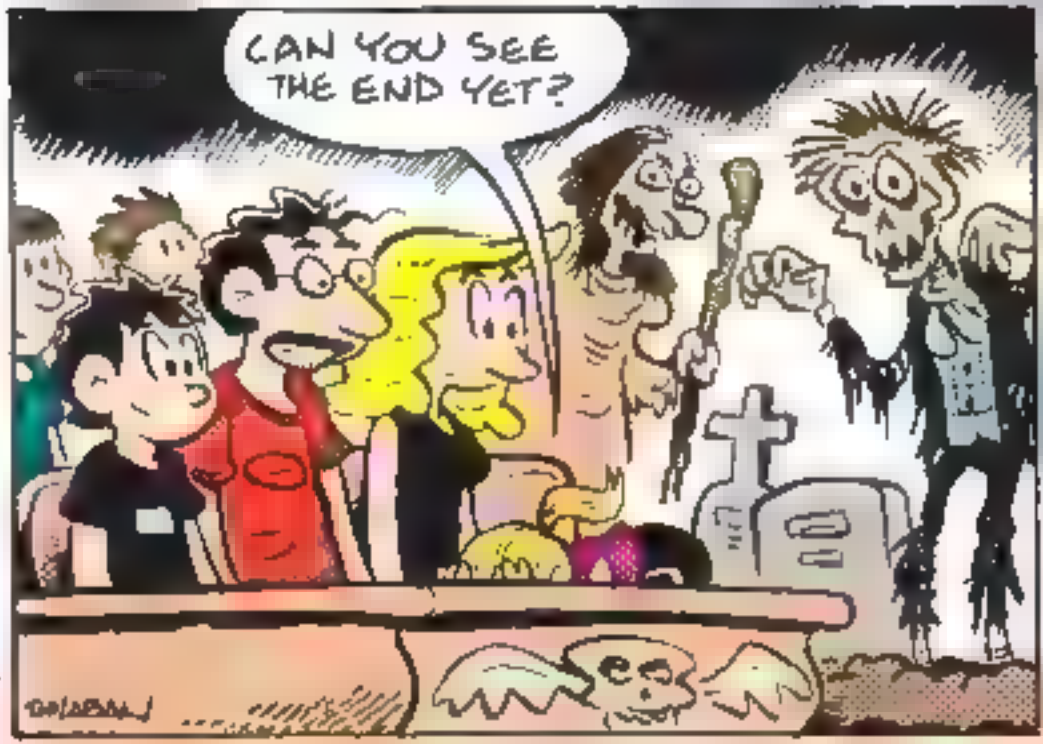

MOM, DAD--LOOK! IT'S WHITEWATER CANYON!
6.23

THAT RIDE IS SUPPOSED TO BE AMAZING! CAN WE GO ON IT? PLEASE?!
I DON'T KNOW, COLIN. I'M NOT SURE I CAN HANDLE IT.
TAPLARON

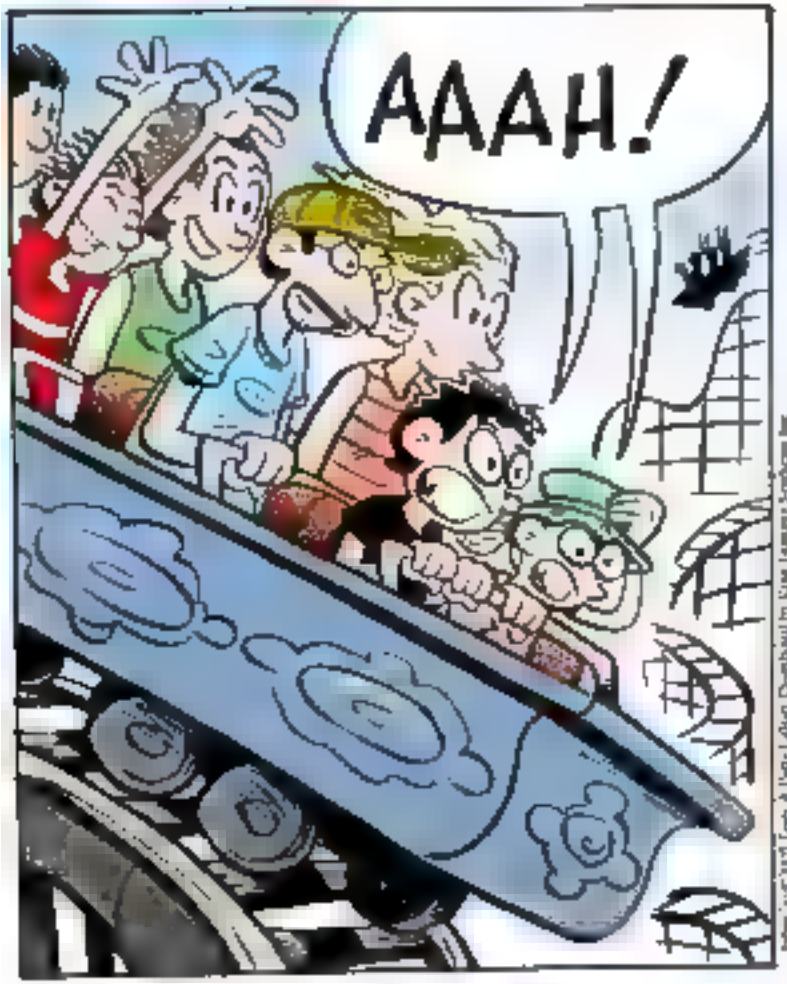
C'MON! IT DOESN'T LOOK THAT SCARY!
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE LINE!
WAIT: 2 HOURS

THAT LAST RIDE WAS FUN! WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT?
I WANNA GO IN GHOST MANSION!

THAT MIGHT BE TOO FRIGHTENING FOR YOU, CARLY.
I'M NOT GONNA BE FRIGHTENED, MOM! CAN'T WE GO ON IT? PLEEASE?!
6-24

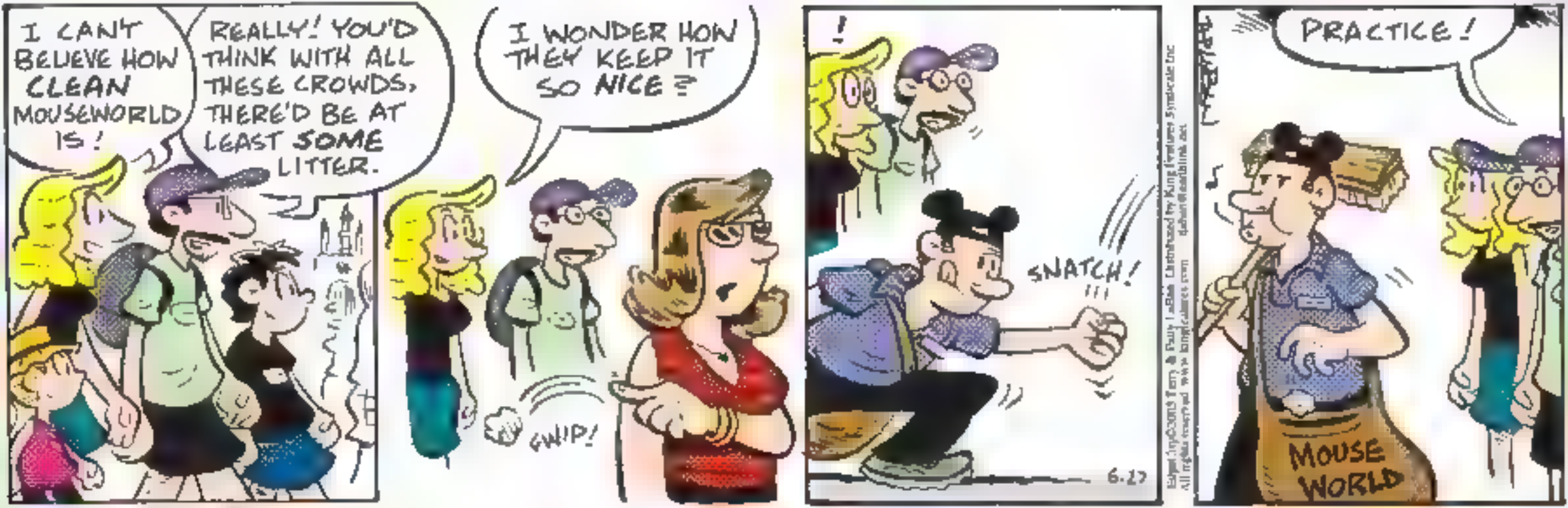

CAN YOU SEE THE END YET?

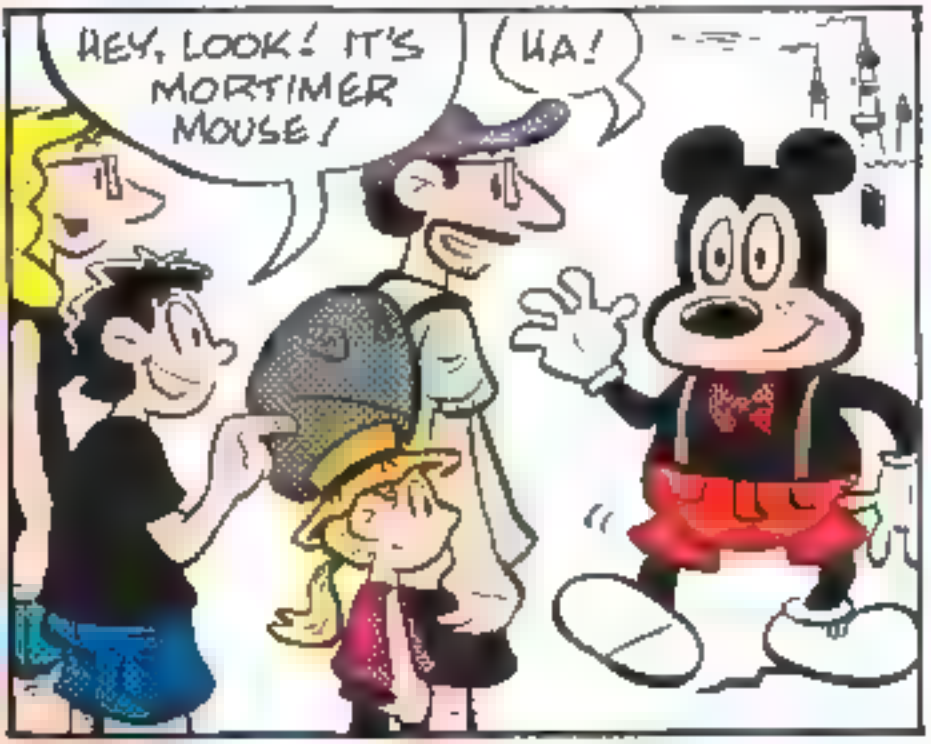
WOW, LEN! WHAT A MAGNIFICENT FIREWORKS SHOW! I'M LIKING MOUSE-WORLD A LOT MORE THAN I THOUGHT I WOULD!
I GUESS THE PARK'S CLOSING SOON.
WELL, WE DON'T HAVE TO LEAVE JUST YET.
I DO HATE TO SEE THIS DAY END.
YEAH-- PLUS THERE'S PROBABLY 10,000 PEOPLE BETWEEN US AND THE MONORAIL!

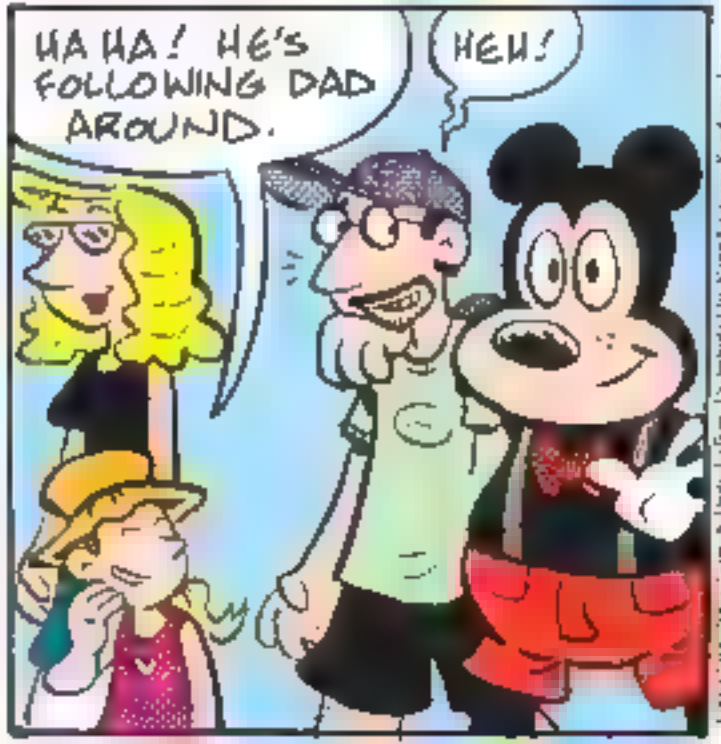

AAAH!

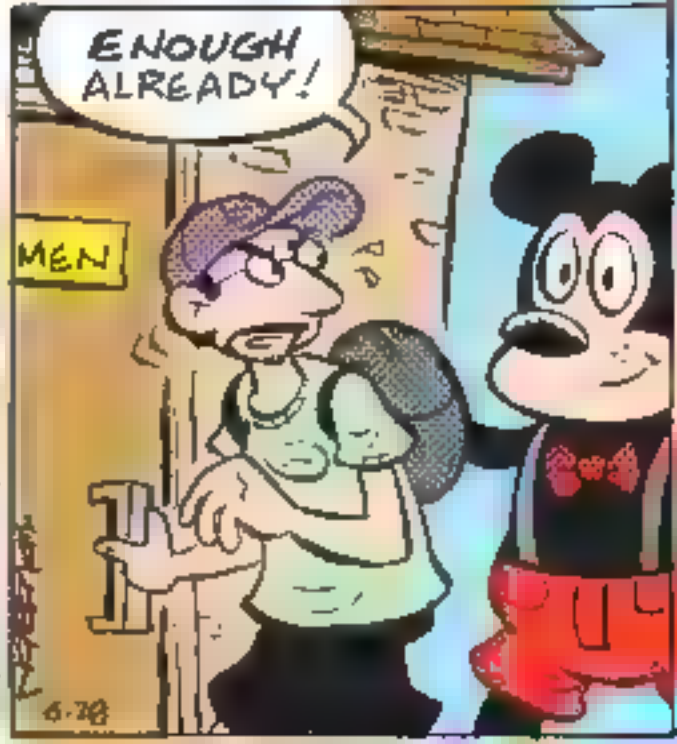
AAAH!!

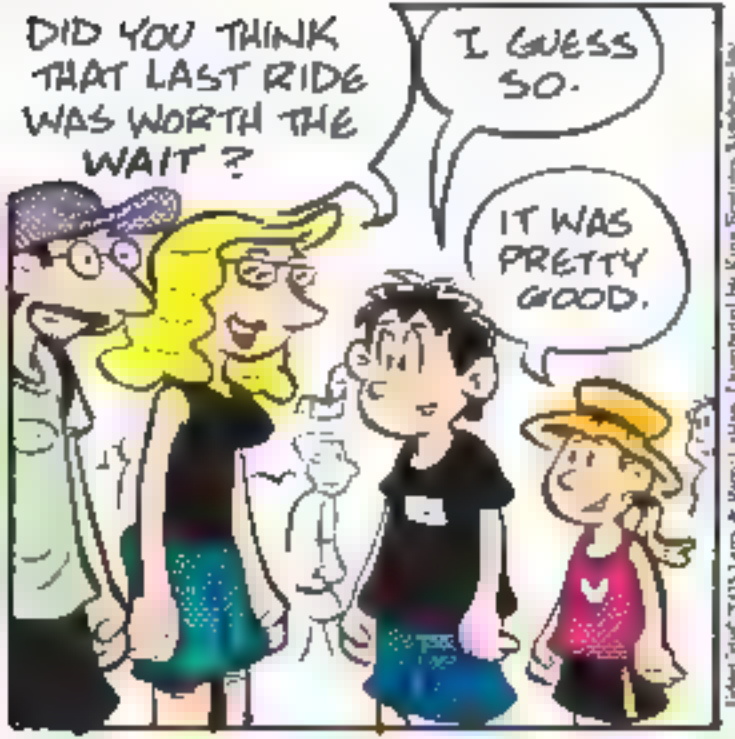
AAAH!!!
GIFT SHOP


I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW CLEAN MOUSEWORLD IS!
REALLY! YOU'D THINK WITH ALL THESE CROWDS, THERE'D BE AT LEAST SOME LITTER.
I WONDER HOW THEY KEEP IT SO NICE?
WHIP!
!
SNATCH!
6-27
PRACTICE!
MOUSE WORLD

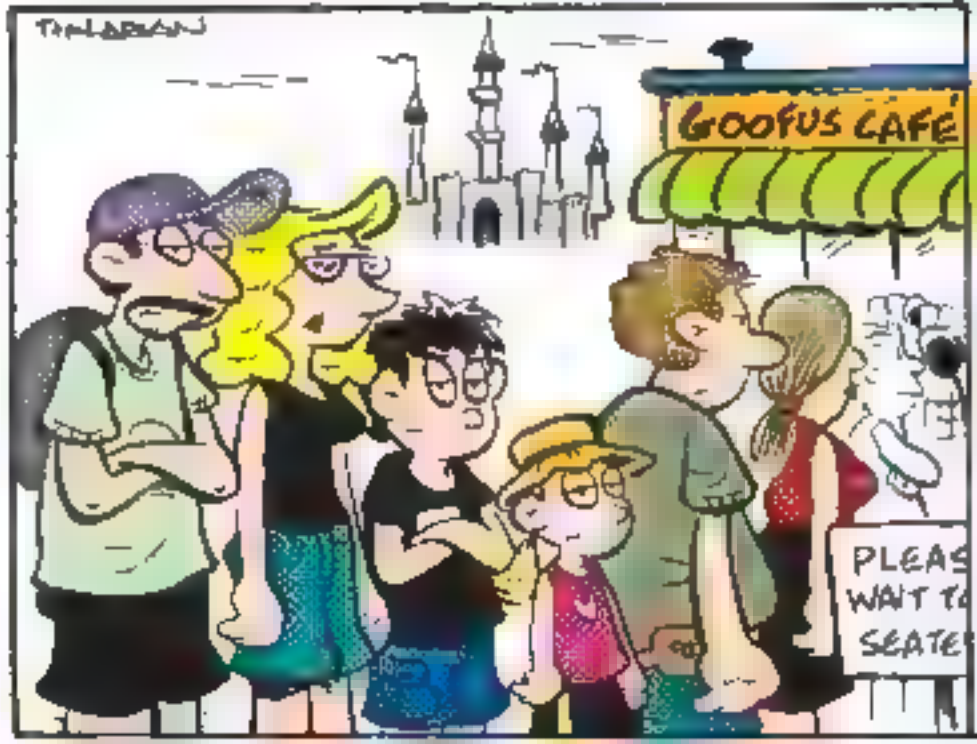

HEY, LOOK! IT'S MORTIMER MOUSE!
HA!

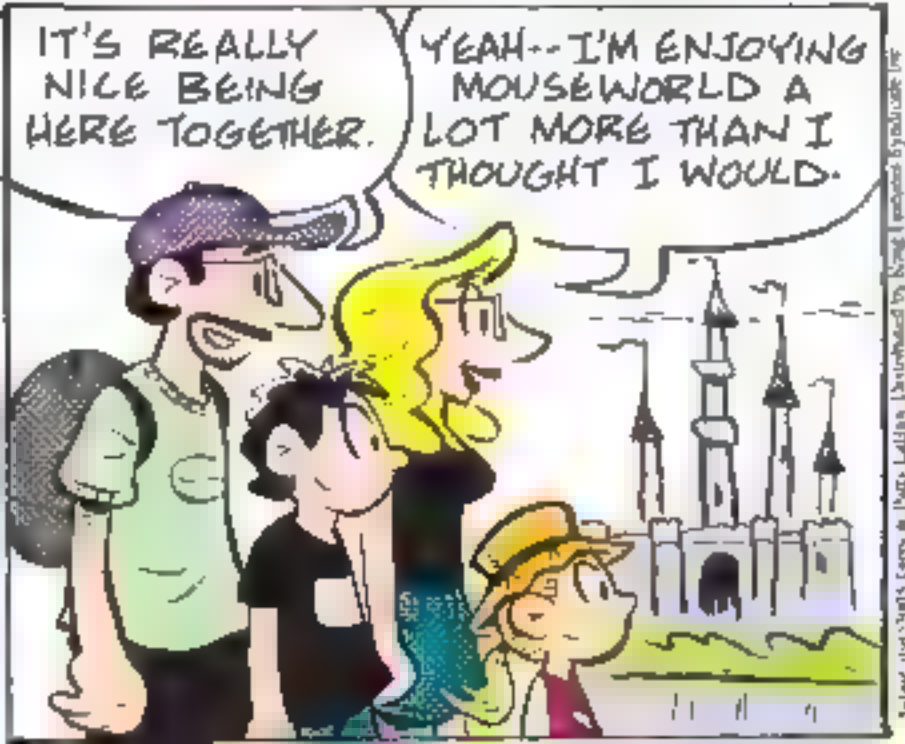

HA HA! HE'S FOLLOWING DAD AROUND.
HEH!

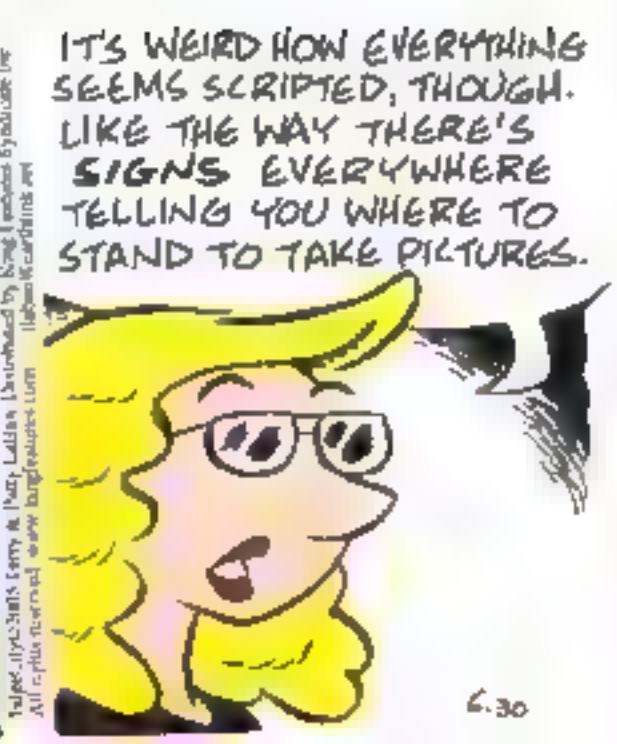

ENOUGH ALREADY!
MEN
6-28

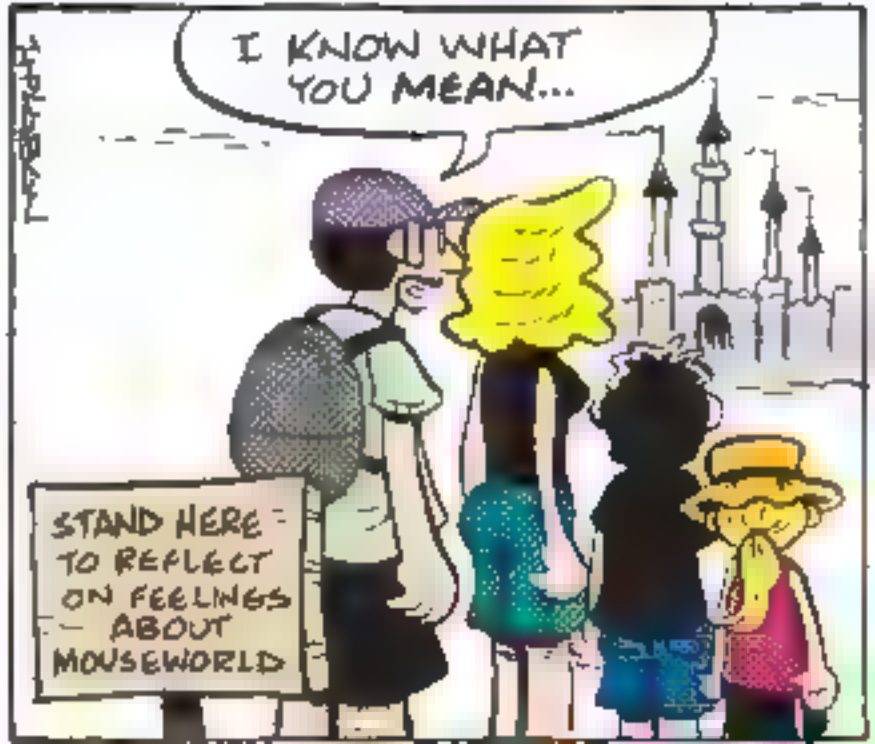

DID YOU THINK THAT LAST RIDE WAS WORTH THE WAIT?
I GUESS SO.
IT WAS PRETTY GOOD.

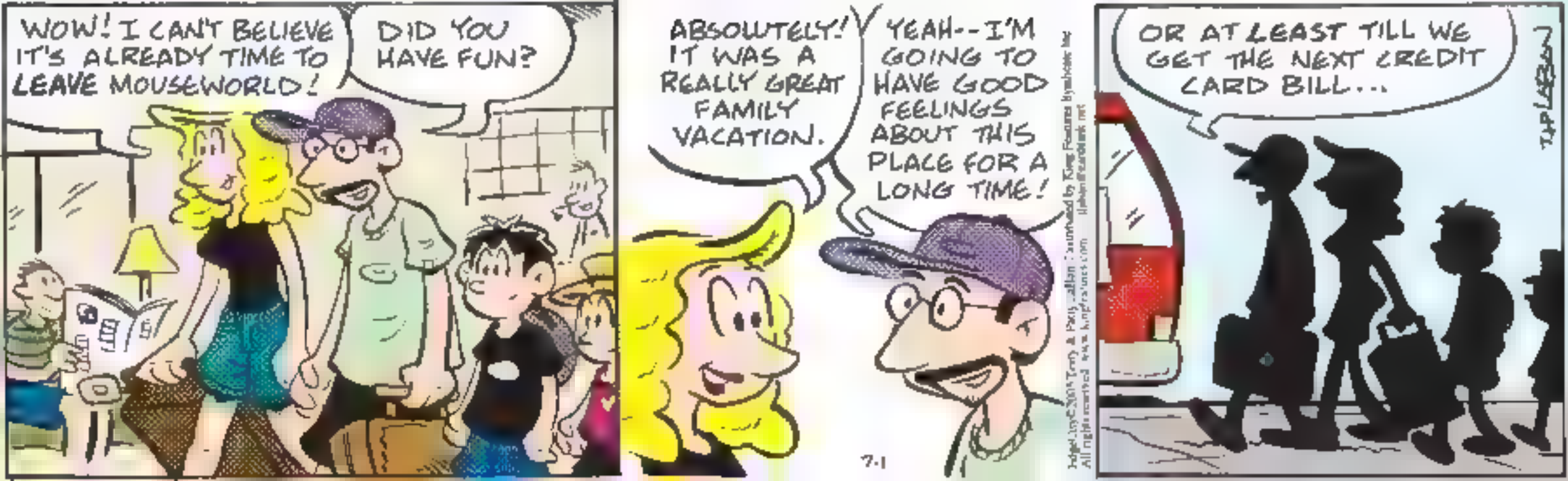
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I NEED A BREAK FROM STANDING IN LINE. READY FOR LUNCH?
YEAH! I'M HUNGRY!
ME, TOO!
6-29

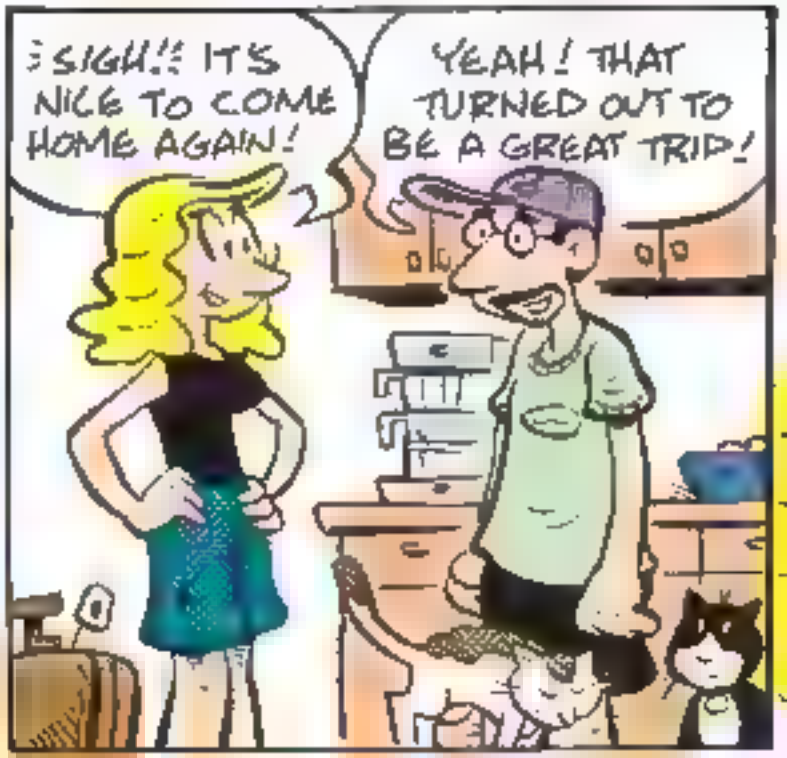

GOOFUS CAFE
PLEAS
WAIT T
SEATE


IT'S REALLY NICE BEING HERE TOGETHER.
YEAH--I'M ENJOYING MOUSEWORLD A LOT MORE THAN I THOUGHT I WOULD.

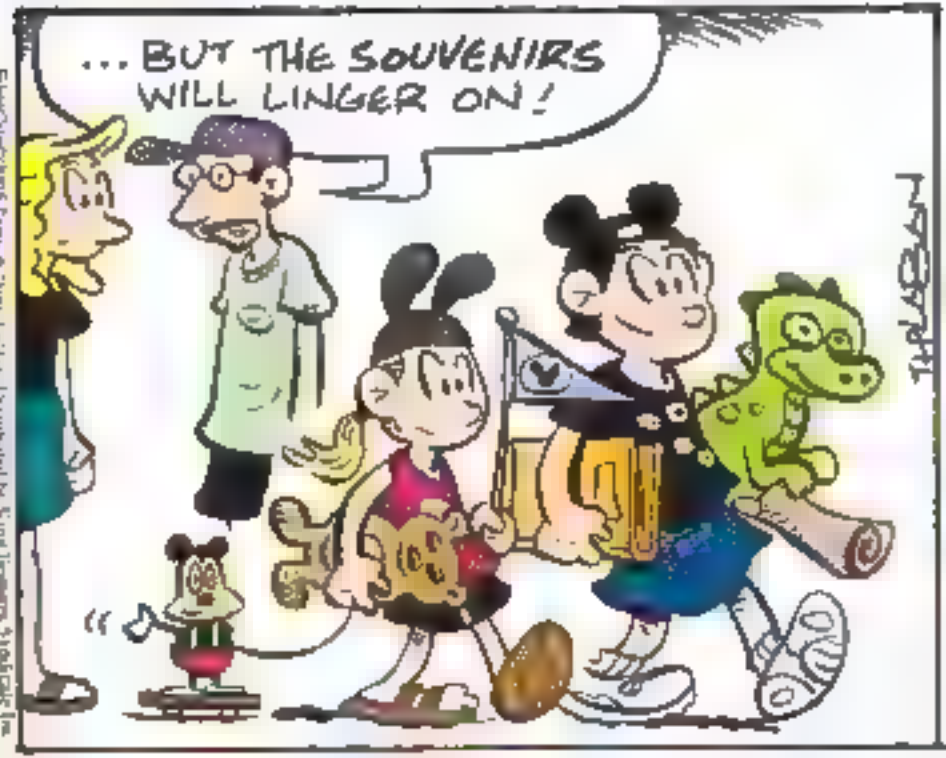

IT'S WEIRD HOW EVERYTHING SEEMS SCRIPTED, THOUGH. LIKE THE WAY THERE'S SIGNS EVERYWHERE TELLING YOU WHERE TO STAND TO TAKE PICTURES.
6.30

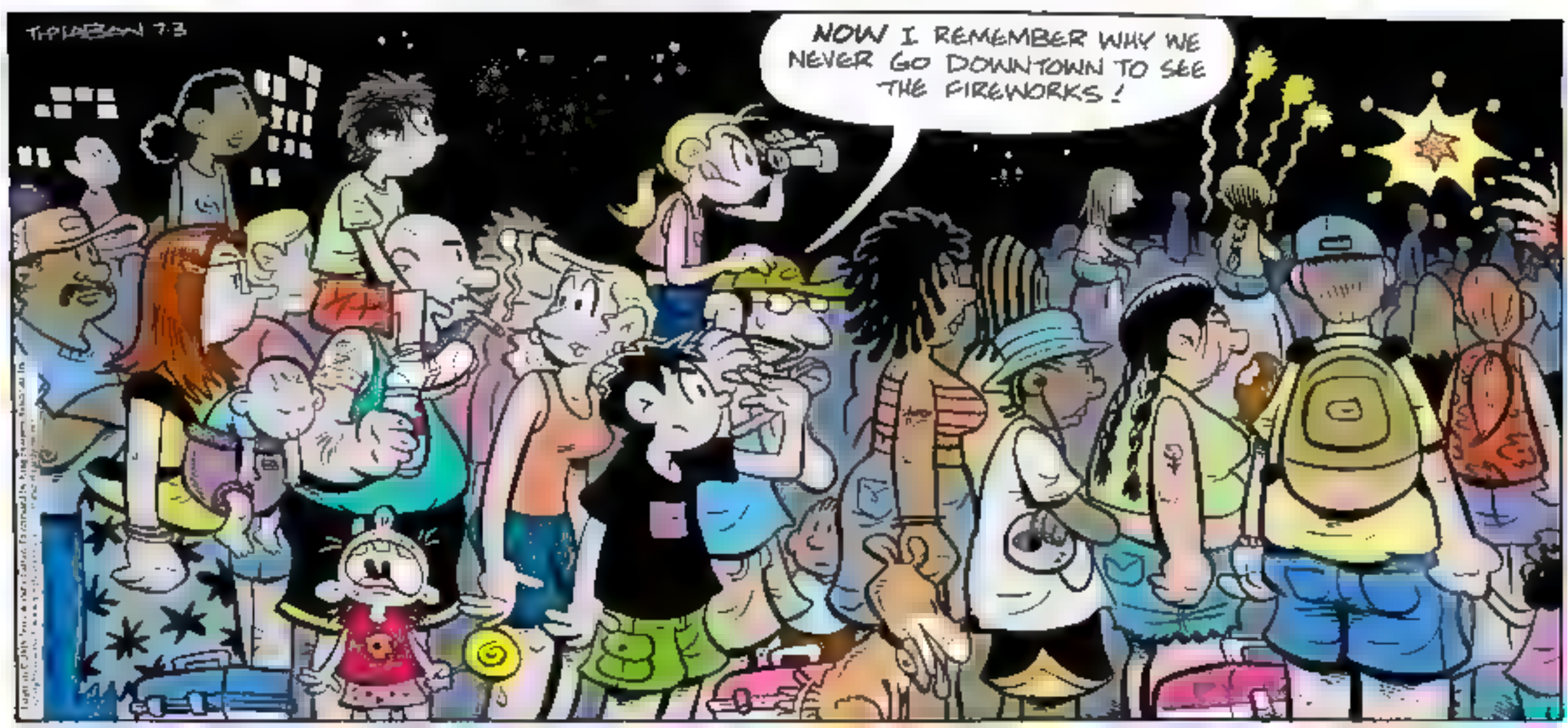

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN...
STAND HERE TO REFLECT ON FEELINGS ABOUT MOUSEWORLD

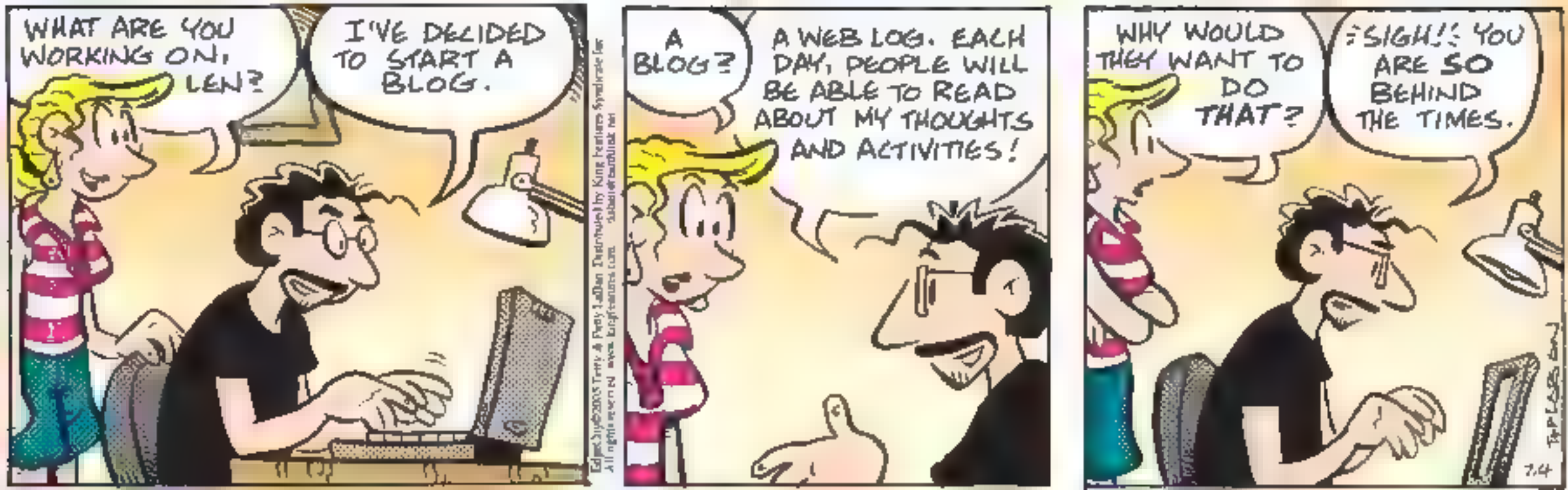

WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S ALREADY TIME TO LEAVE MOUSEWORLD!
DID YOU HAVE FUN?
ABSOLUTELY! IT WAS A REALLY GREAT FAMILY VACATION.
YEAH--I'M GOING TO HAVE GOOD FEELINGS ABOUT THIS PLACE FOR A LONG TIME!
OR AT LEAST TILL WE GET THE NEXT CREDIT CARD BILL...
TUPLEBAN


SIGH!! IT'S NICE TO COME HOME AGAIN!
YEAH! THAT TURNED OUT TO BE A GREAT TRIP!

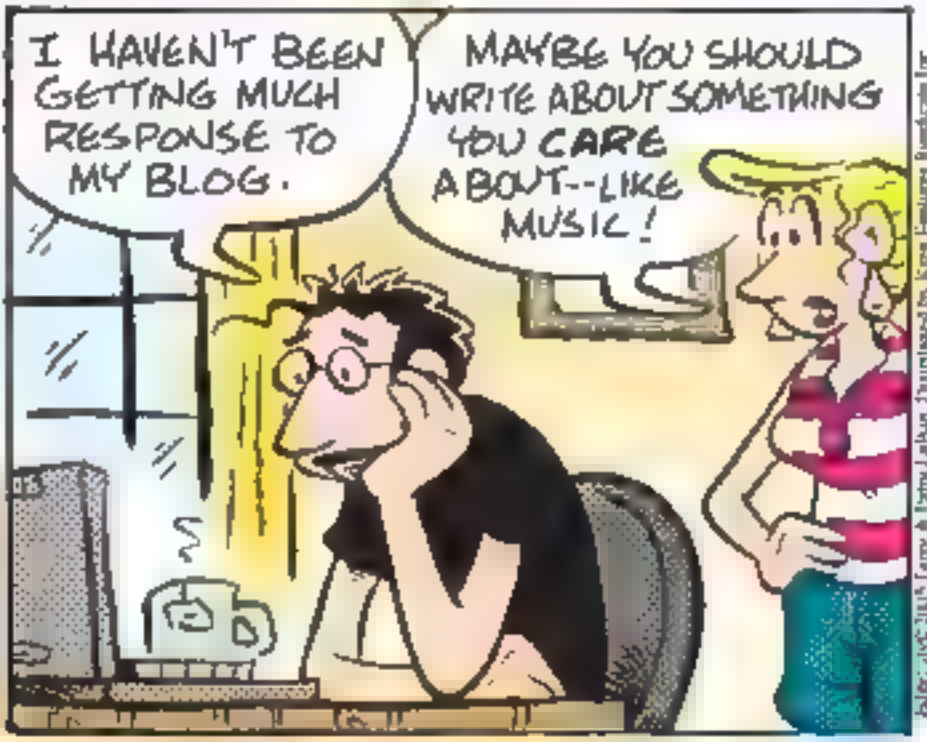
Y'KNOW, I WASN'T SURE I'D LIKE MOUSEWORLD. BUT IN THE END, I WAS SAD TO LEAVE.
OH, WELL. THE VACATION MAY BE OVER...

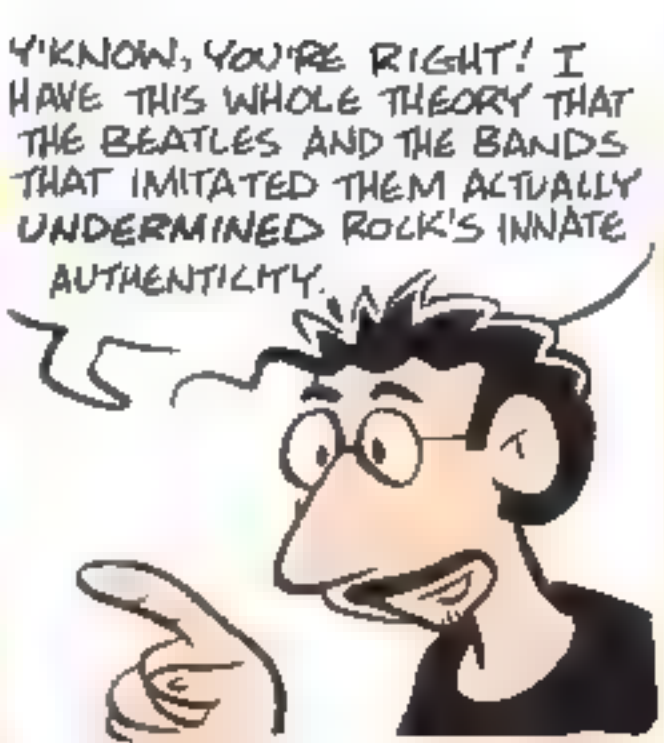

... BUT THE SOUVENIRS WILL LINGER ON!

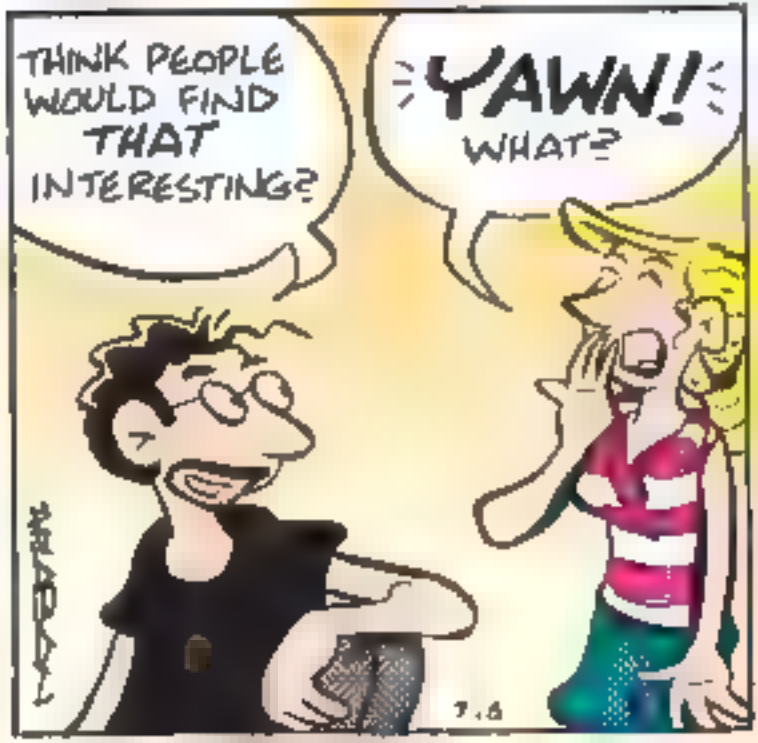

THPLABAN 7-3
NOW I REMEMBER WHY WE NEVER GO DOWNTOWN TO SEE THE FIREWORKS!


WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON, LEN?
I'VE DECIDED TO START A BLOG.
A BLOG?
A WEB LOG. EACH DAY, PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO READ ABOUT MY THOUGHTS AND ACTIVITIES!
WHY WOULD THEY WANT TO DO THAT?
SIGH! YOU ARE SO BEHIND THE TIMES.

"SIGH!" I'VE BEEN KEEPING MY BLOG A WEEK ALREADY, AND NOT ONE PERSON HAS RESPONDED!
WITH MILLIONS OF PEOPLE SURFING THE INTERNET, YOU'D THINK I'D CONNECT WITH SOMEONE.
"JULY 5th: TODAY FOR BREAKFAST, I HAD A CROISSANT."
MAYBE I SHOULD GET MORE POLITICAL.

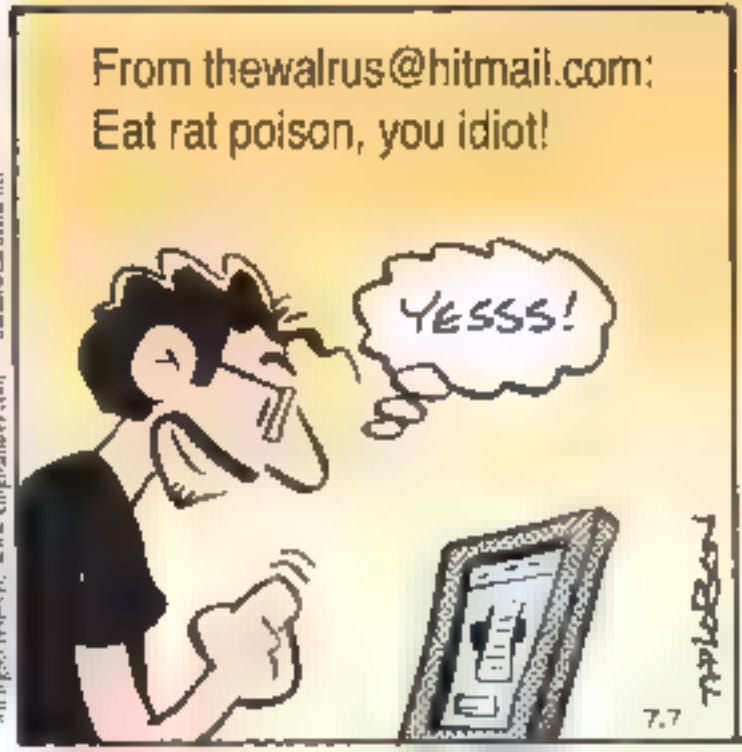

I HAVEN'T BEEN GETTING MUCH RESPONSE TO MY BLOG.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD WRITE ABOUT SOMETHING YOU CARE ABOUT--LIKE MUSIC!

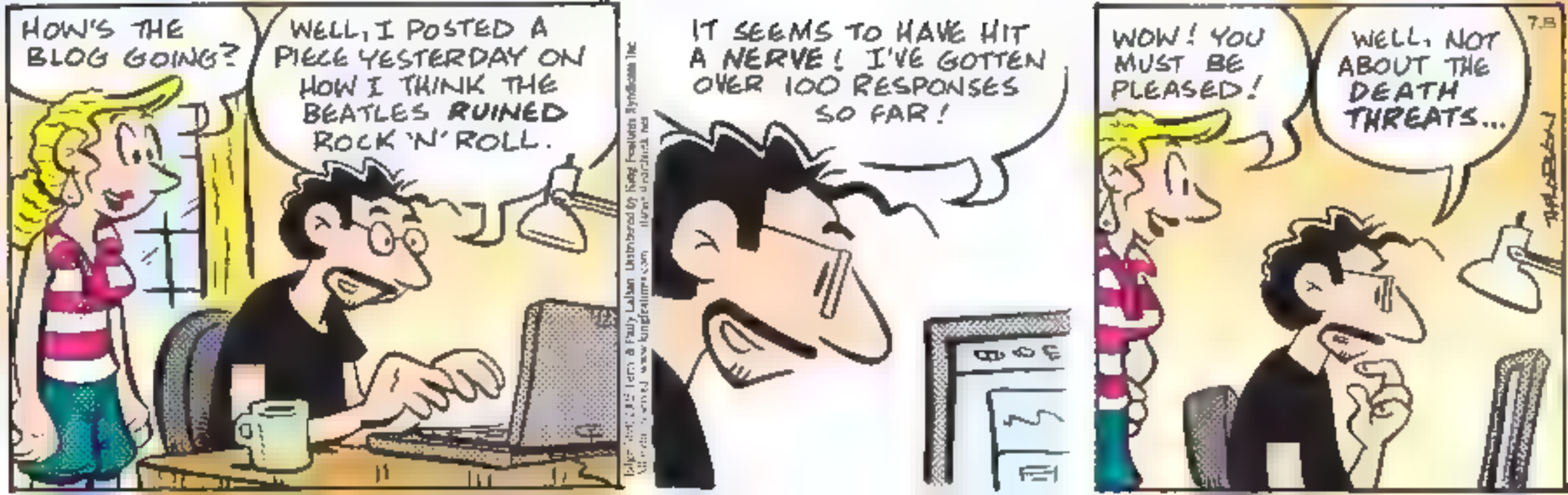

Y'KNOW, YOU'RE RIGHT! I HAVE THIS WHOLE THEORY THAT THE BEATLES AND THE BANDS THAT IMITATED THEM ACTUALLY UNDERMINED ROCK'S INNATE AUTHENTICITY.

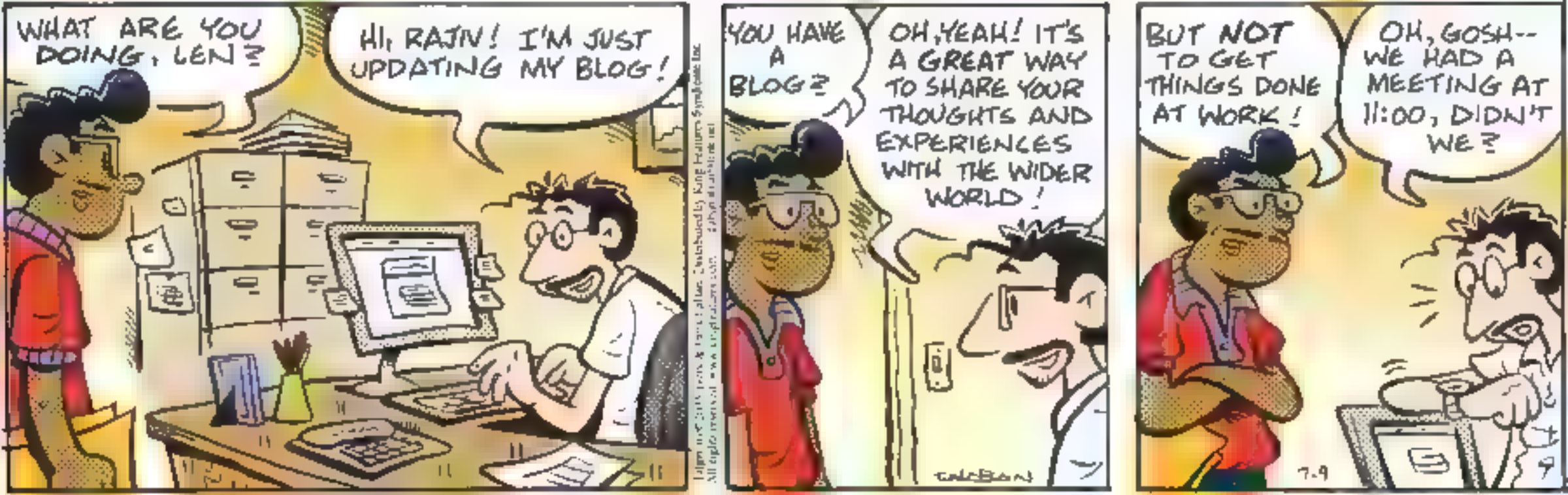

THINK PEOPLE WOULD FIND THAT INTERESTING?
YAWN!
WHAT?

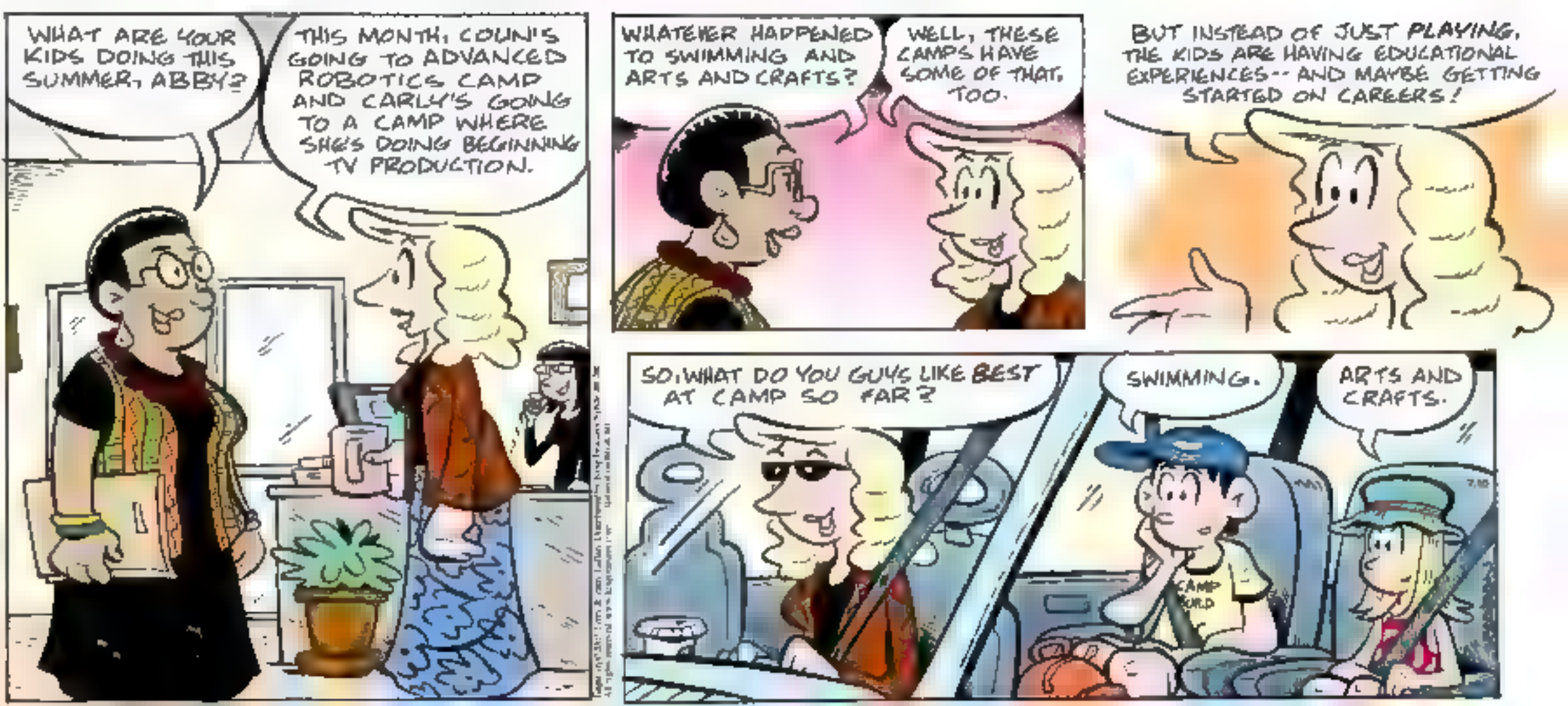
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN MUCH RESPONSE TO MY BLOG SO FAR. MAYBE I SHOULD POST SOME OPINIONS ABOUT MUSIC.

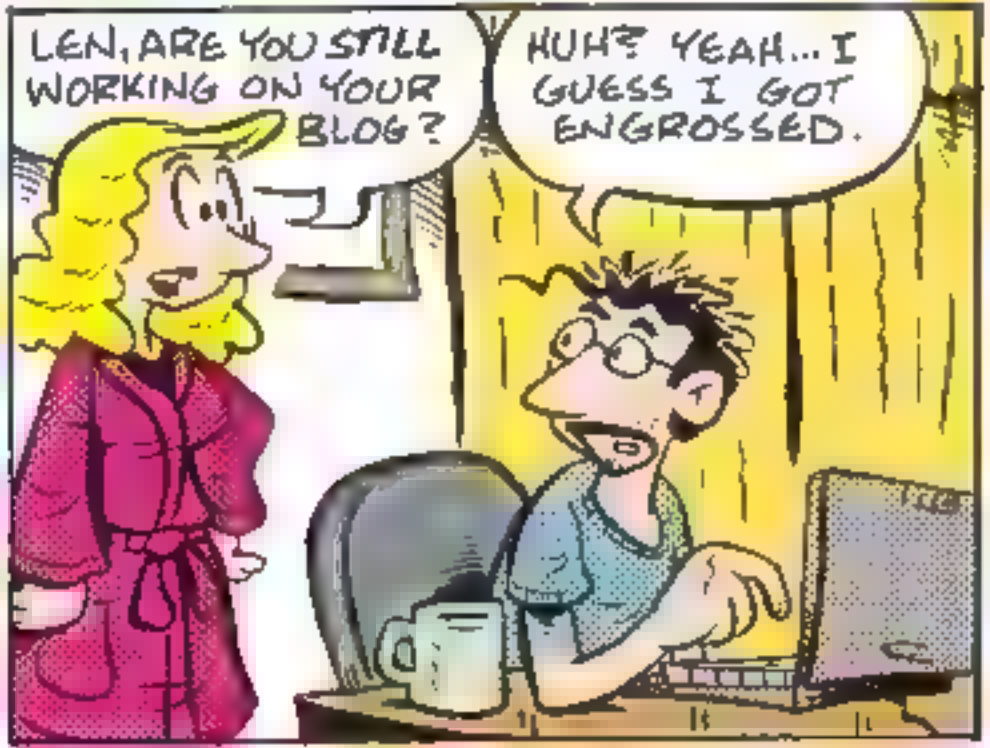
July 7th:
How the Beatles ruined rock 'n' roll.
TAPA TAPA


From thewalrus@hitmail.com:
Eat rat poison, you idiot!
YESSS!
7.7


HOW'S THE BLOG GOING?
WELL, I POSTED A PIECE YESTERDAY ON HOW I THINK THE BEATLES RUINED ROCK 'N' ROLL.
IT SEEMS TO HAVE HIT A NERVE! I'VE GOTTEN OVER 100 RESPONSES SO FAR!
WOW! YOU MUST BE PLEASED!
WELL, NOT ABOUT THE DEATH THREATS...

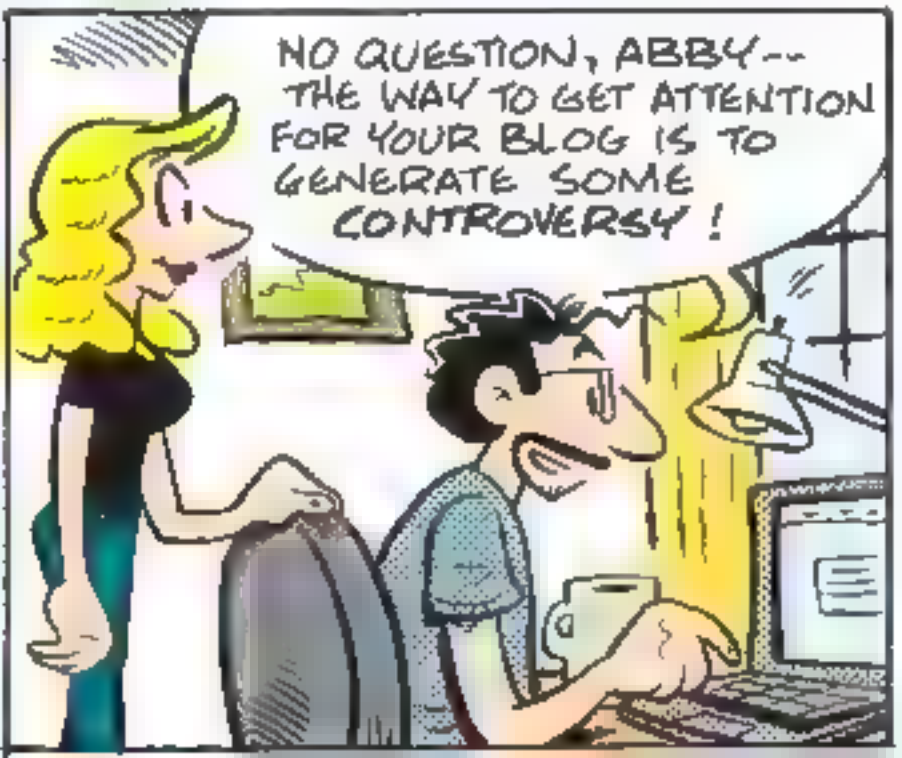

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, LEN?
HI, RAJIV! I'M JUST UPDATING MY BLOG!
YOU HAVE A BLOG?
OH, YEAH! IT'S A GREAT WAY TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND EXPERIENCES WITH THE WIDER WORLD!
BUT NOT TO GET THINGS DONE AT WORK!
OH, GOSH-- WE HAD A MEETING AT 11:00, DIDN'T WE?
7-9


WHAT ARE YOUR KIDS DOING THIS SUMMER, ABBY?
THIS MONTH, COUNI'S GOING TO ADVANCED ROBOTICS CAMP AND CARLY'S GOING TO A CAMP WHERE SHE'S DOING BEGINNING TV PRODUCTION.
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SWIMMING AND ARTS AND CRAFTS?
WELL, THESE CAMPS HAVE SOME OF THAT, TOO.
BUT INSTEAD OF JUST PLAYING, THE KIDS ARE HAVING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES-- AND MAYBE GETTING STARTED ON CAREERS!
SO, WHAT DO YOU GUYS LIKE BEST AT CAMP SO FAR?
SWIMMING.
ARTS AND CRAFTS.

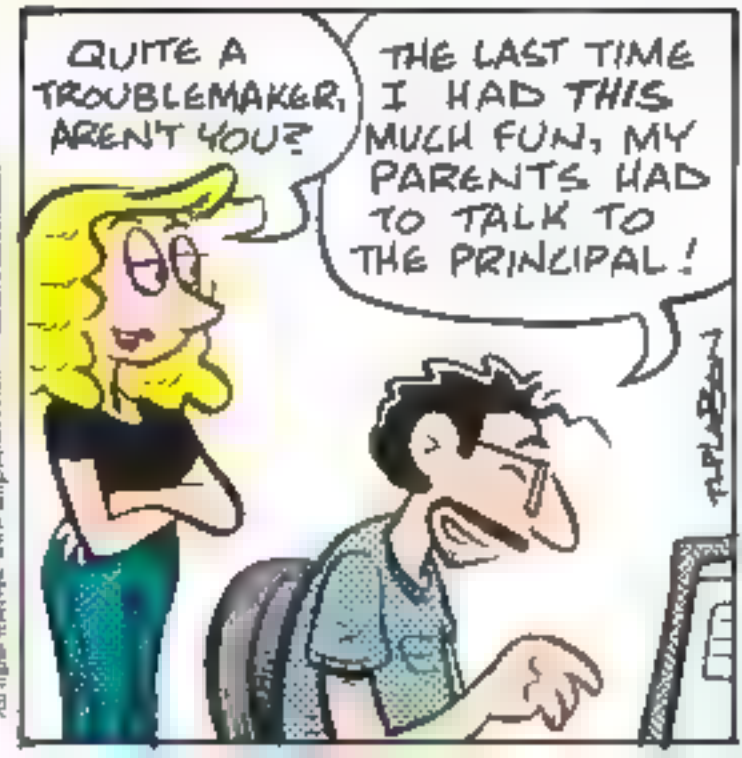

LEN, ARE YOU STILL WORKING ON YOUR BLOG?
HUH? YEAH... I GUESS I GOT ENGROSSED.

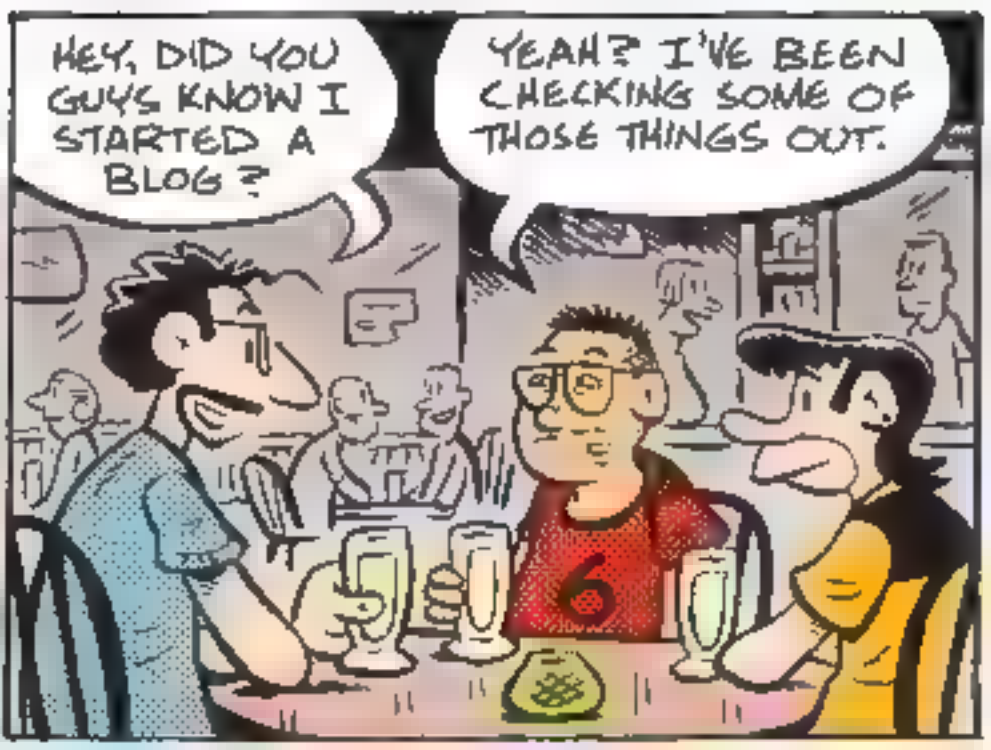
THIS ISN'T GOOD FOR YOU, LEN. YOU NEED YOUR SLEEP!
ALL RIGHT-- I'M FINISHING UP. WHAT TIME IS IT?

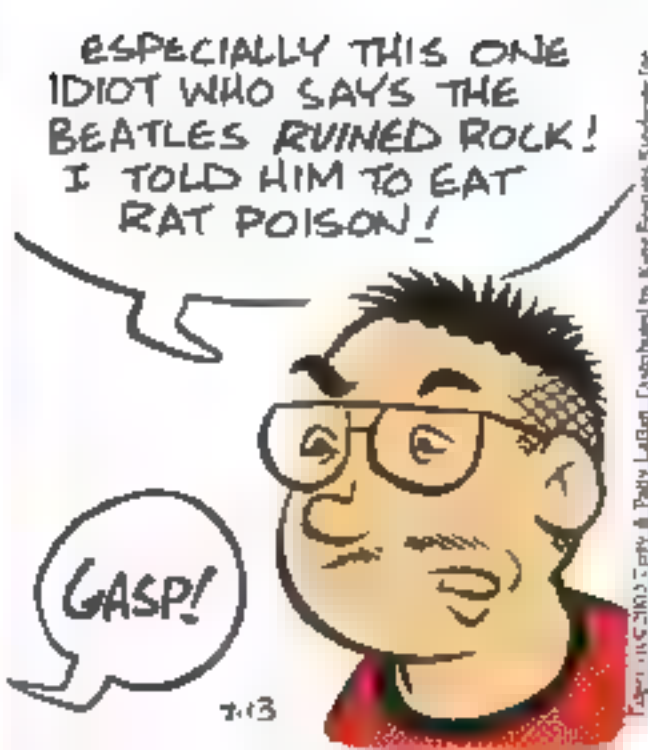
6:00AM!
JUST A SEC... I WANNA RESPOND TO THIS GUY.
THE LABRAN


NO QUESTION, ABBY-- THE WAY TO GET ATTENTION FOR YOUR BLOG IS TO GENERATE SOME CONTROVERSY!

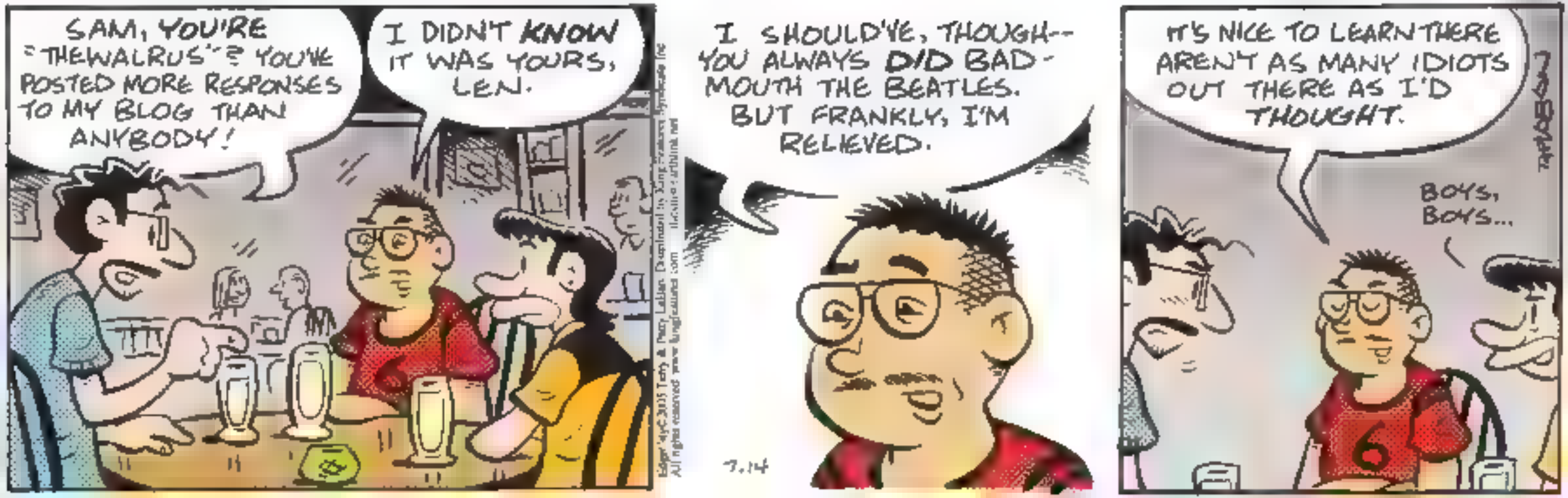
SINCE I POSTED THAT PIECE ON HOW THE BEATLES RUINED ROCK, I'VE BEEN DELUGED BY E-MAIL FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE FURIOUS AT ME!


QUITE A TROUBLEMAKER, AREN'T YOU?
THE LAST TIME I HAD THIS MUCH FUN, MY PARENTS HAD TO TALK TO THE PRINCIPAL!

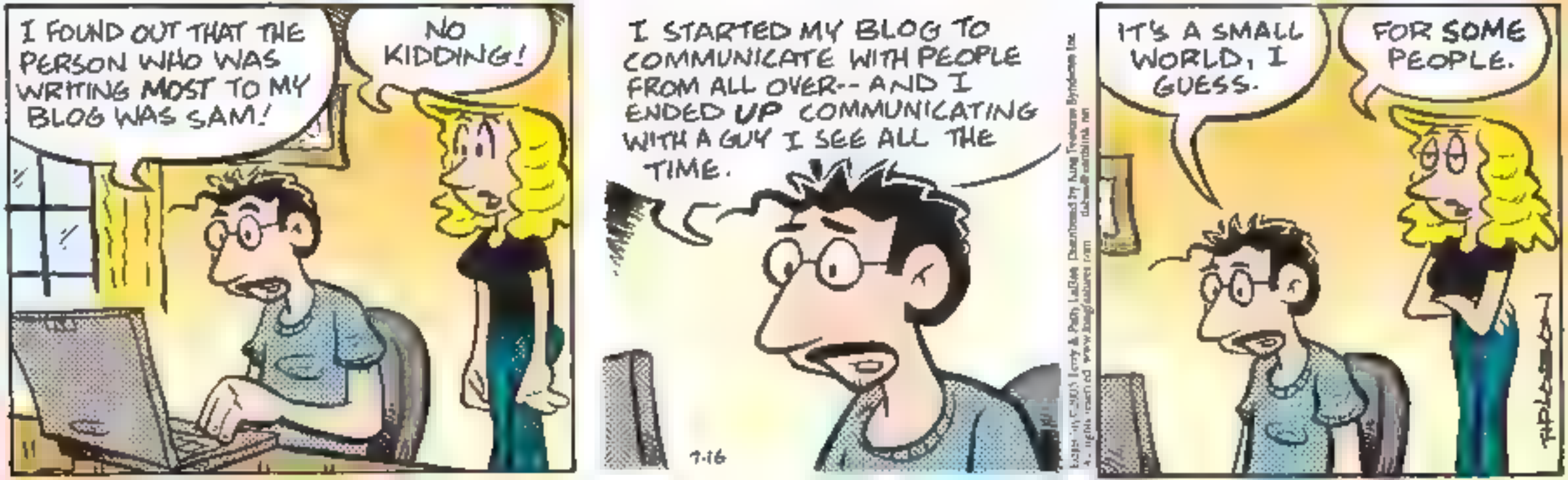

HEY, DID YOU GUYS KNOW I STARTED A BLOG?
YEAH? I'VE BEEN CHECKING SOME OF THOSE THINGS OUT.

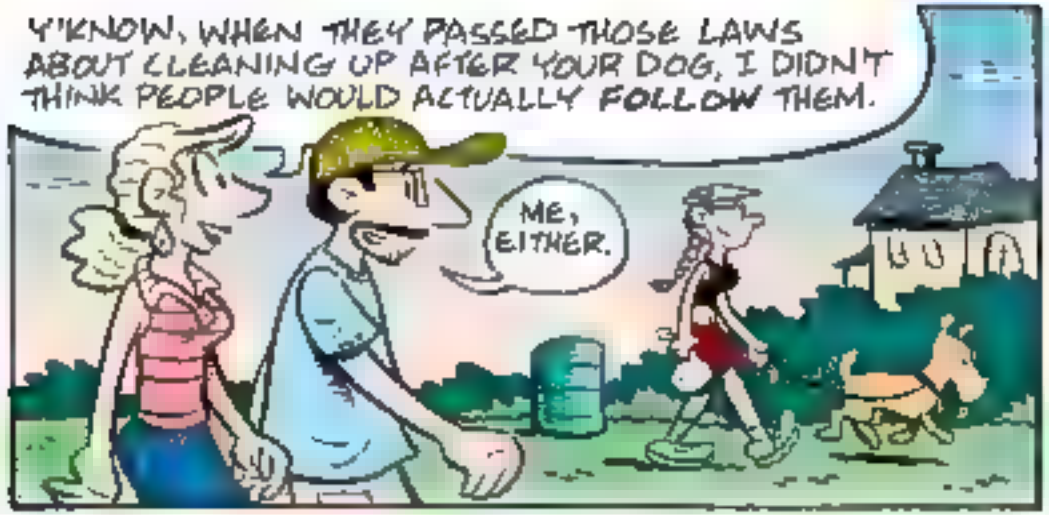

ESPECIALLY THIS ONE IDIOT WHO SAYS THE BEATLES RUINED ROCK! I TOLD HIM TO EAT RAT POISON!
GASP!

YOU'RE "THE WALRUS"?
YOU'RE "I KILLED PAUL"?!


SAM, YOU'RE "THE WALRUS"? YOU'VE POSTED MORE RESPONSES TO MY BLOG THAN ANYBODY!
I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOURS, LEN.
I SHOULD'VE, THOUGH-- YOU ALWAYS DID BAD-MOUTH THE BEATLES. BUT FRANKLY, I'M RELIEVED.
IT'S NICE TO LEARN THERE AREN'T AS MANY IDIOTS OUT THERE AS I'D THOUGHT.
BOYS, BOYS...

YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN STAYING UP ALL NIGHT ARGUING ON LEN'S BLOG ABOUT THE BEATLES? YOU'RE NUTS!
WHAT'S NUTS IS SAYING THAT THEY RUINED ROCK!
HEY, IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR PUNK, ROCK WOULD STILL BE DEAD!
WHAT GEEKS! THAT'S SUCH A SILLY THING TO LOSE SLEEP OVER!
ROCK DIED WHEN ELVIS LEFT SUN RECORDS!
HERETIC!
NEANDERTHAL!

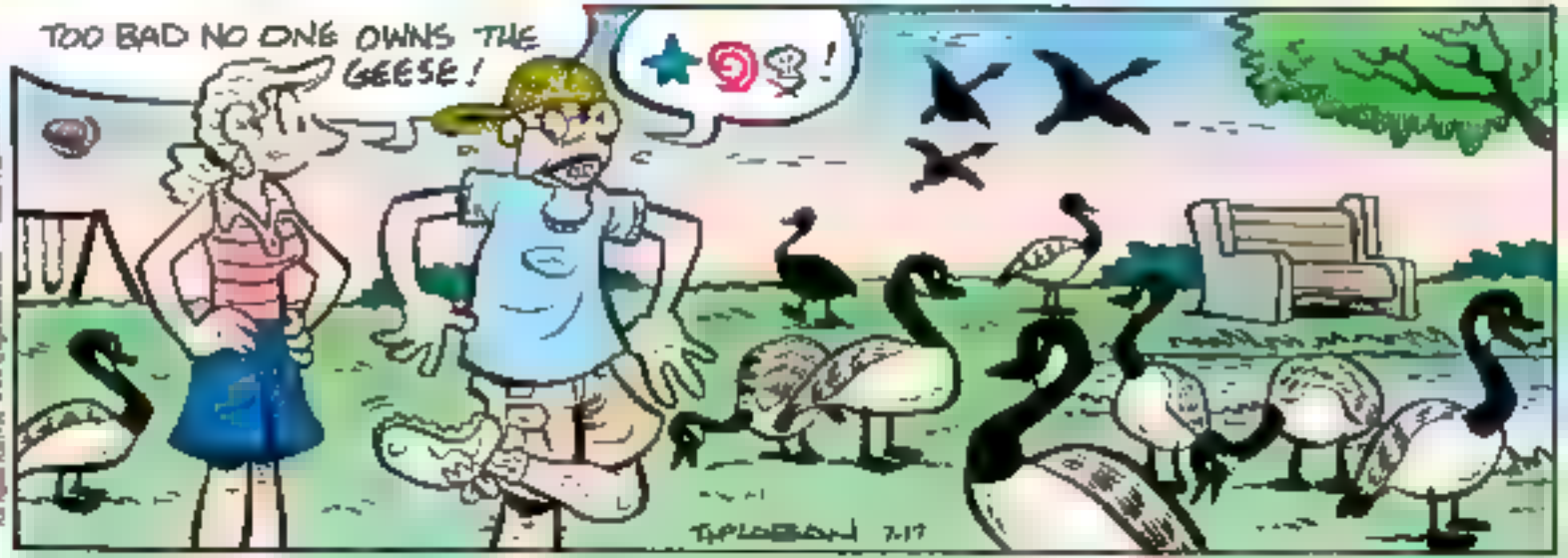

I FOUND OUT THAT THE PERSON WHO WAS WRITING MOST TO MY BLOG WAS SAM!
NO KIDDING!
I STARTED MY BLOG TO COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER-- AND I ENDED UP COMMUNICATING WITH A GUY I SEE ALL THE TIME.
7-16
IT'S A SMALL WORLD, I GUESS.
FOR SOME PEOPLE.

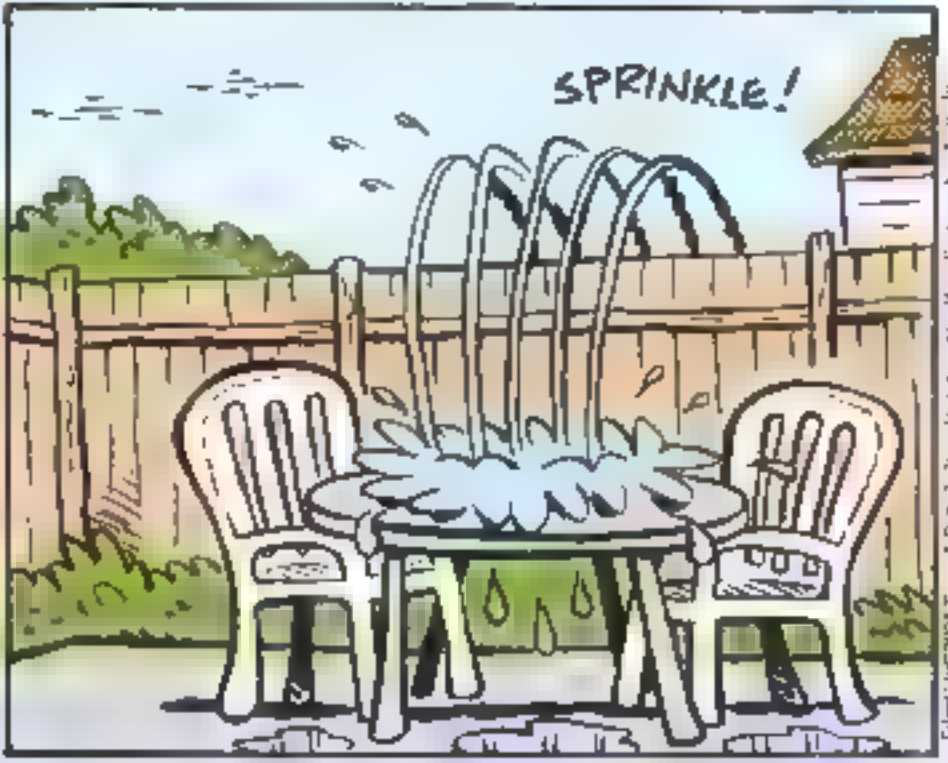

Y'KNOW, WHEN THEY PASSED THOSE LAWS ABOUT CLEANING UP AFTER YOUR DOG, I DIDN'T THINK PEOPLE WOULD ACTUALLY FOLLOW THEM.
ME, EITHER.

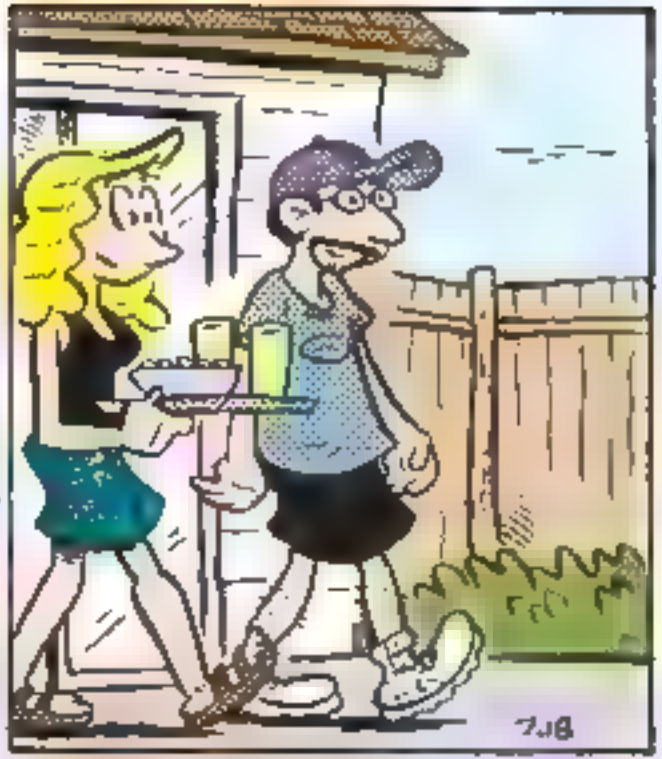
BUT THESE DAYS, YOU HARDLY EVER SEE A DOG OWNER WITHOUT A LITTLE BAG.

IT'S SURE NICE TO BE ABLE TO WALK THROUGH THE PARK AND NOT WORRY ABOUT STEPPING IN...

SQUISH!


TOO BAD NO ONE OWNS THE GEESE!
TAPLOSKAN 7-17


SPRINKLE!

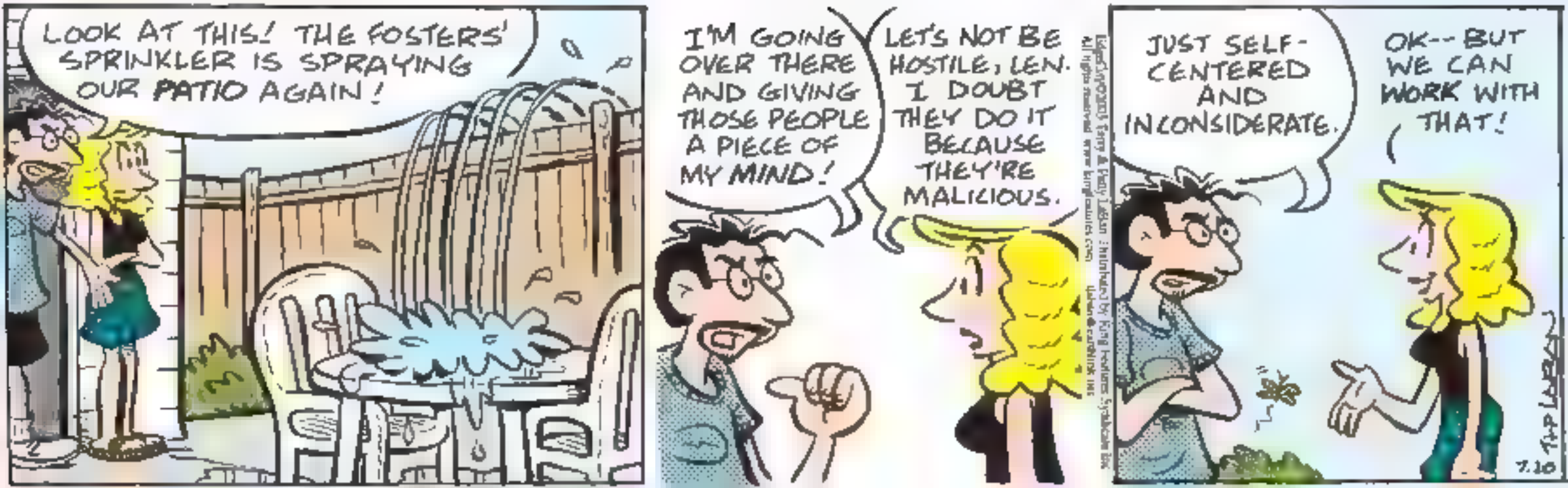


SQUISH!
SQUISH!

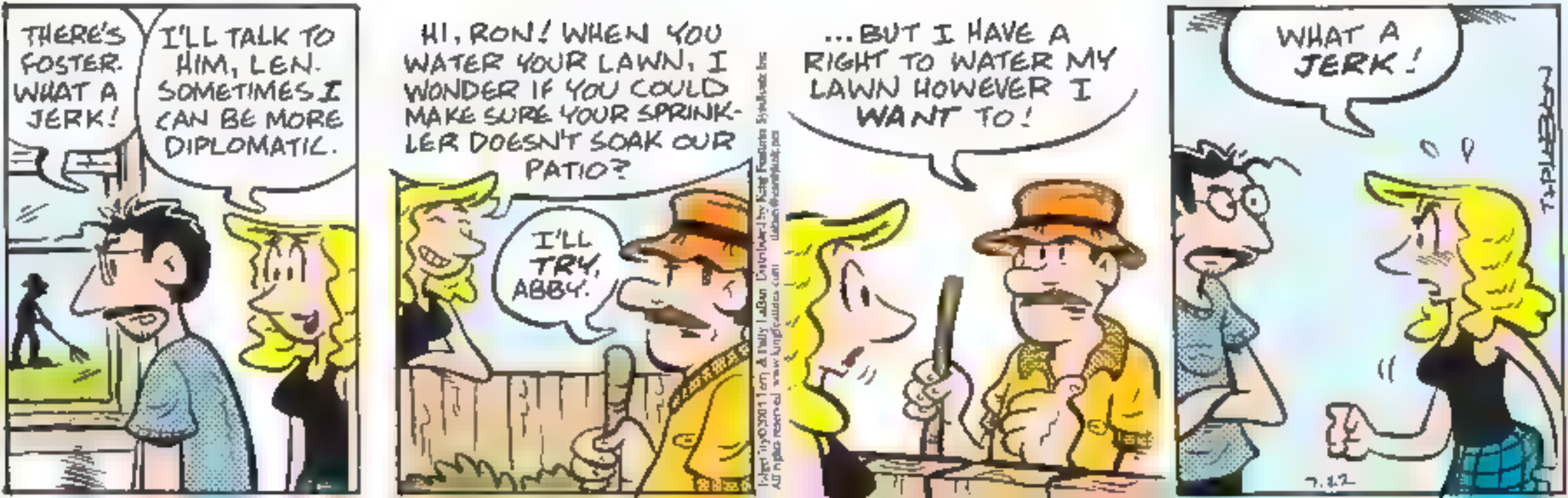
WANNA SIT OUT BACK?
IF IT'S DRY LATELY, THE FOSTERS' SPRINKLER HAS BEEN SPRAYING OUR PATIO!

IT LOOKS OK! BRING THE SNACKS!

SPRAY!


LOOK AT THIS! THE FOSTERS' SPRINKLER IS SPRAYING OUR PATIO AGAIN!
I'M GOING OVER THERE AND GIVING THOSE PEOPLE A PIECE OF MY MIND!
LET'S NOT BE HOSTILE, LEN. I DOUBT THEY DO IT BECAUSE THEY'RE MALICIOUS.
JUST SELF-CENTERED AND INCONSIDERATE.
OK-- BUT WE CAN WORK WITH THAT!

ROD FOSTER IS IN HIS YARD. MAYBE YOU SHOULD TALK TO HIM ABOUT HIS SPRINKLER.
HEY, ROD! CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
SURE, LEN. WHAT'S UP?
WHEN YOU WATER YOUR LAWN, CAN YOU MAKE SURE YOUR SPRINKLER DOESN'T SOAK OUR PATIO?
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
!!
SPRAY!


THERE'S FOSTER. WHAT A JERK!
I'LL TALK TO HIM, LEN. SOMETIMES I CAN BE MORE DIPLOMATIC.
HI, RON! WHEN YOU WATER YOUR LAWN, I WONDER IF YOU COULD MAKE SURE YOUR SPRINKLER DOESN'T SOAK OUR PATIO?
I'LL TRY, ABBY.
...BUT I HAVE A RIGHT TO WATER MY LAWN HOWEVER I WANT TO!
WHAT A JERK!

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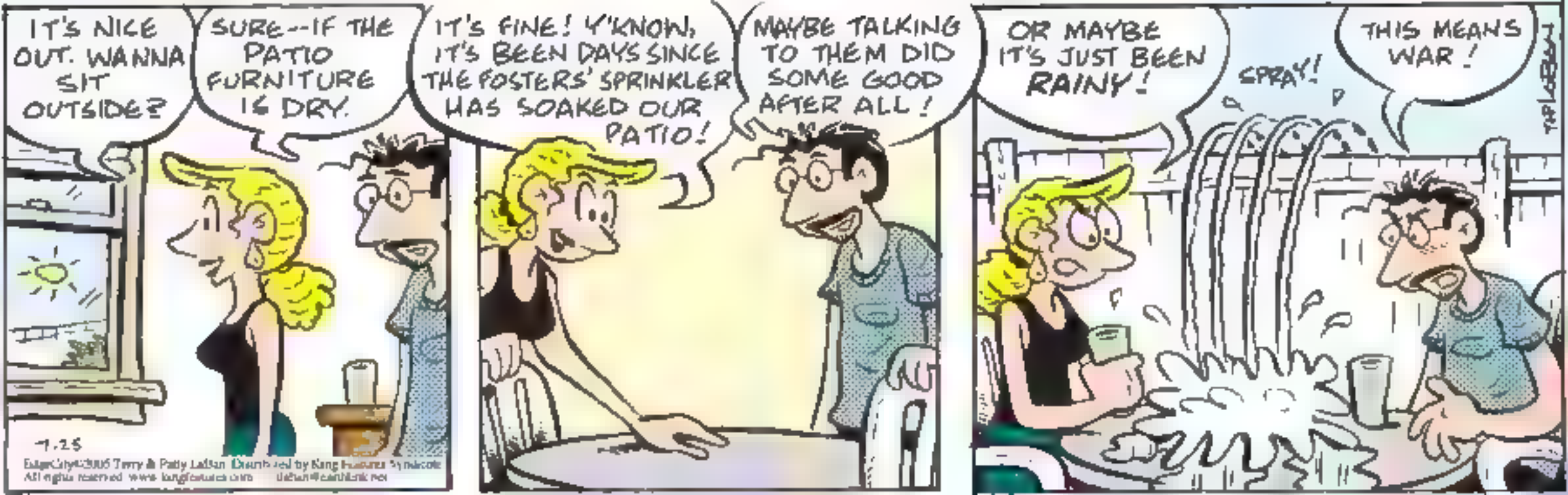
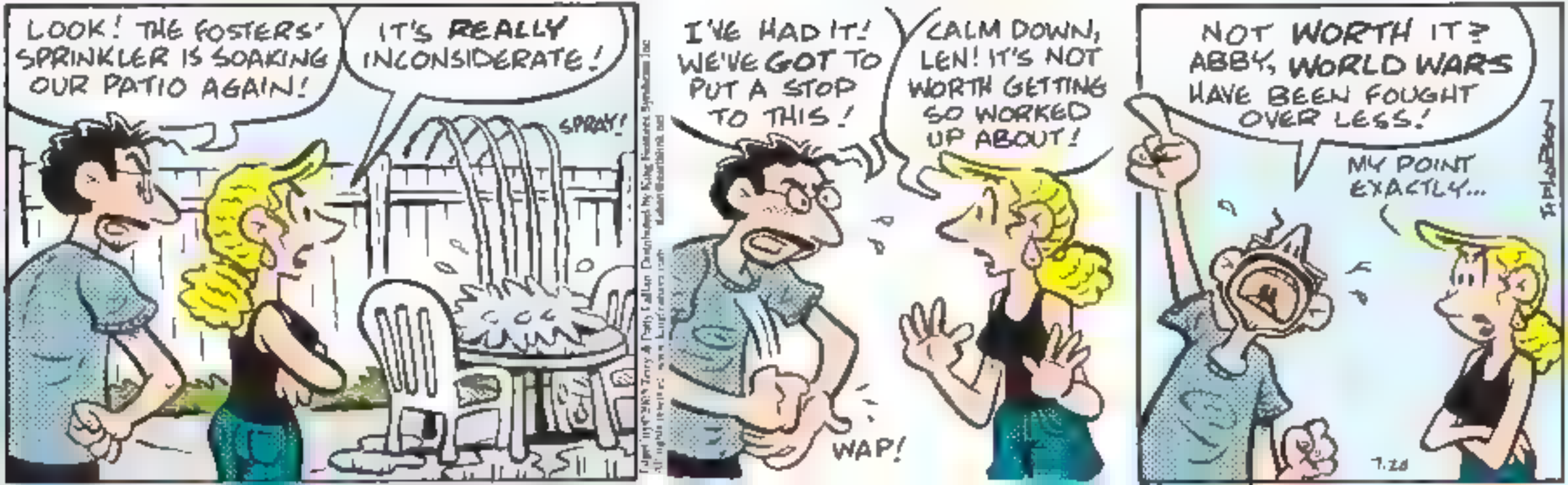
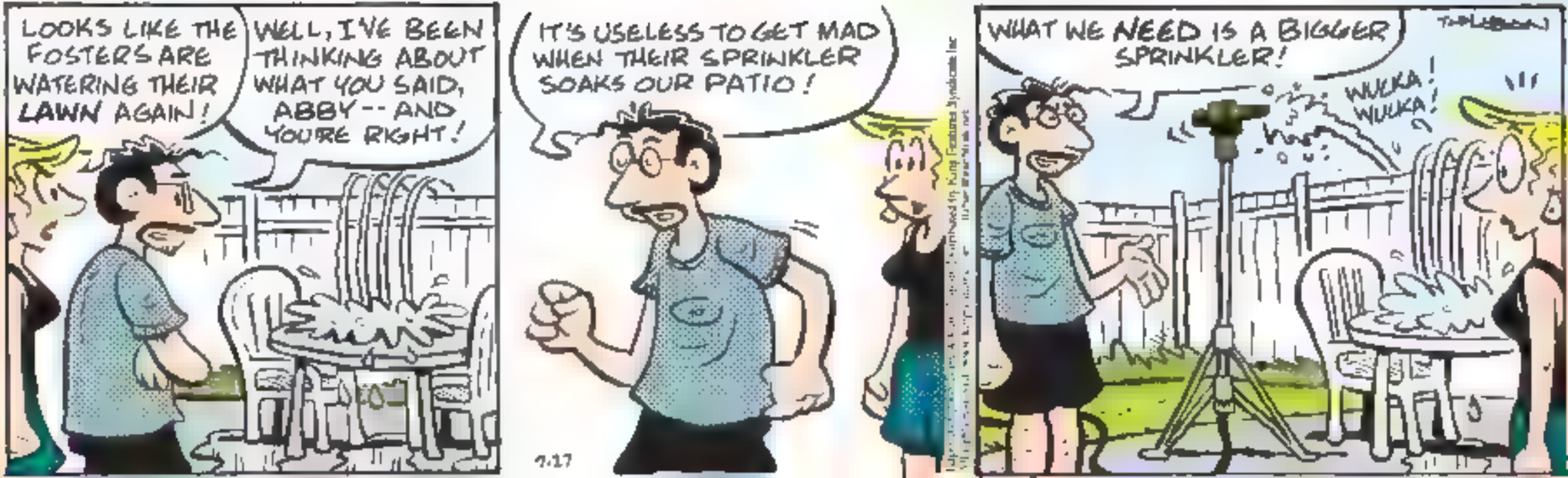
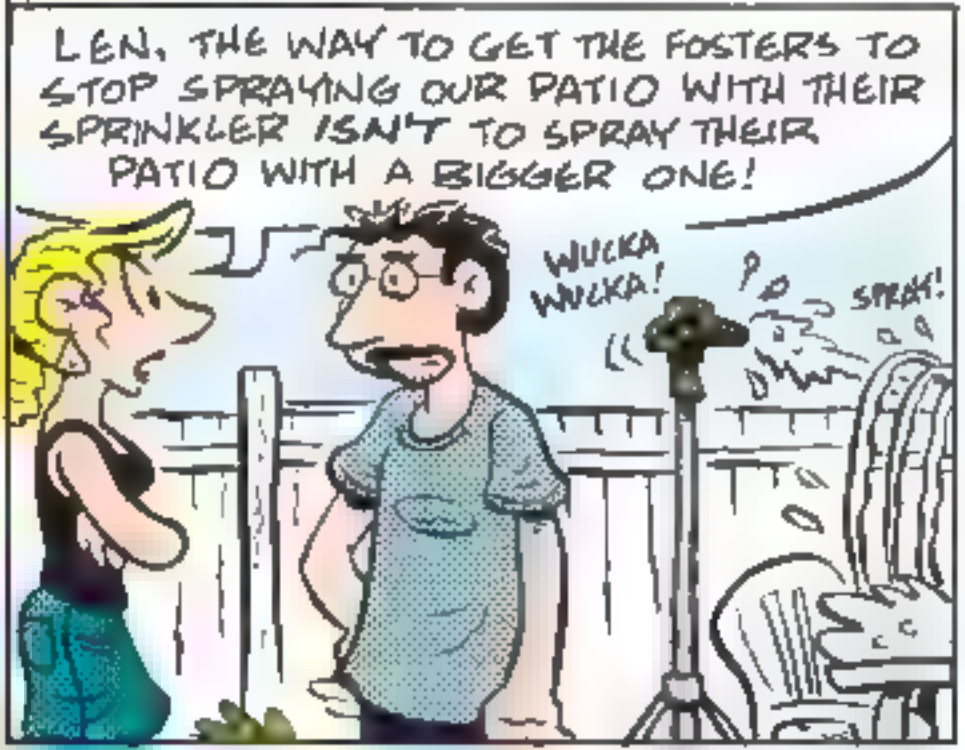
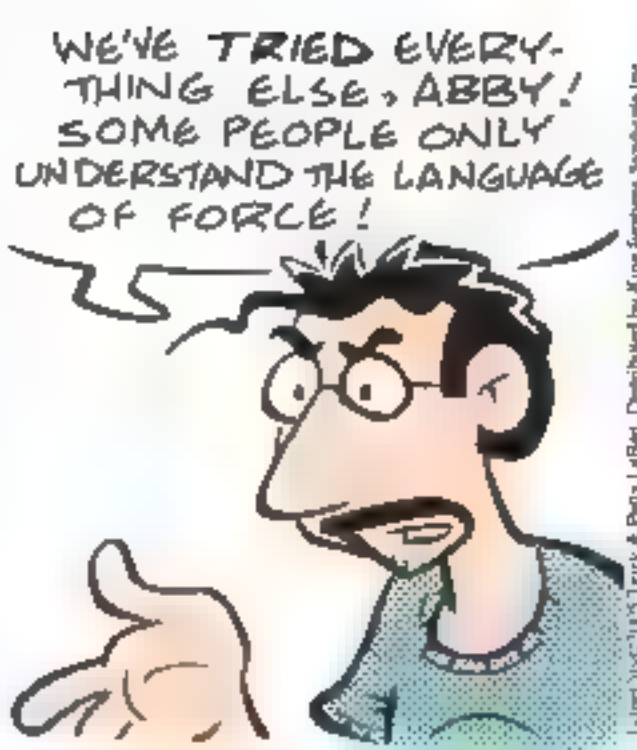
RUBBER GLOVES.
RUBBER GLOVES.
KNIFE.
KNIFE.
STERILE TRAY.
STERILE TRAY.
HAPPY?
LOOKS GOOD. TAKE 'EM AWAY!
ABBY, I KNOW WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WHEN WE HANDLE RAW CHICKEN, BUT THIS IS A LITTLE MUCH!
JUST MAKE SURE THEY'RE COOKED THROUGH, ALL RIGHT?


IT'S NICE OUT. WANNA SIT OUTSIDE?
SURE--IF THE PATIO FURNITURE IS DRY.
IT'S FINE! Y'KNOW, IT'S BEEN DAYS SINCE THE FOSTERS' SPRINKLER HAS SOAKED OUR PATIO!
MAYBE TALKING TO THEM DID SOME GOOD AFTER ALL!
OR MAYBE IT'S JUST BEEN RAINY!
SPRAY!
THIS MEANS WAR!
7-25


LOOK! THE FOSTERS' SPRINKLER IS SOAKING OUR PATIO AGAIN!
IT'S REALLY INCONSIDERATE!
SPRAY!
I'VE HAD IT! WE'VE GOT TO PUT A STOP TO THIS!
CALM DOWN, LEN! IT'S NOT WORTH GETTING SO WORKED UP ABOUT!
WAP!
NOT WORTH IT? ABBY, WORLD WARS HAVE BEEN FOUGHT OVER LESS!
MY POINT EXACTLY...

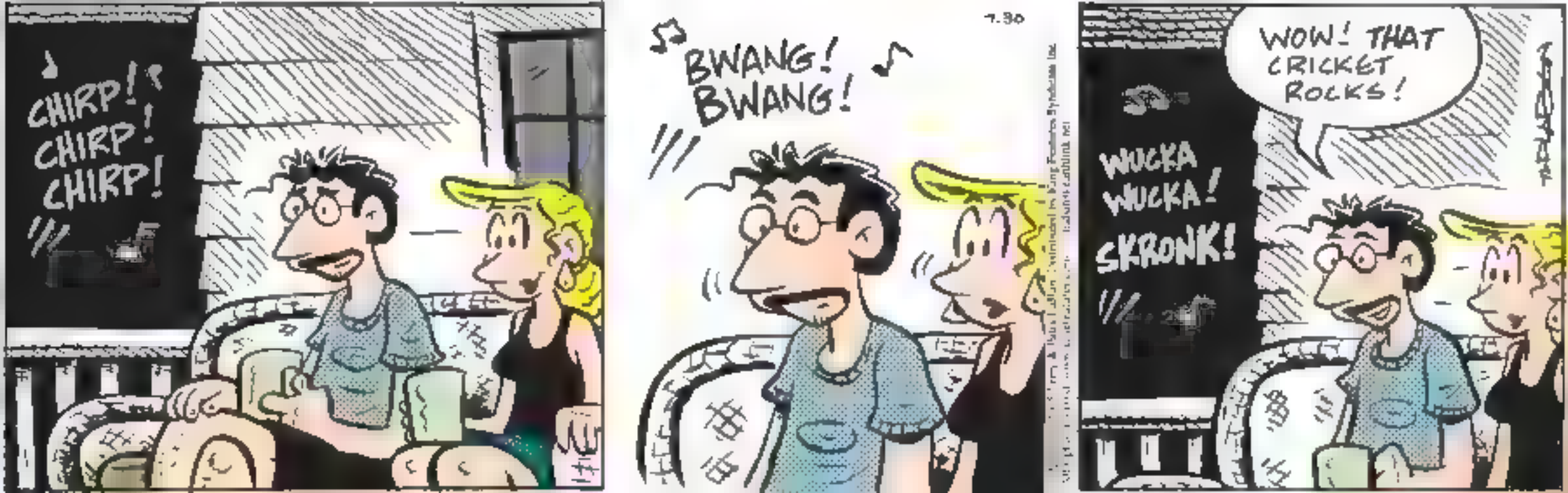

LOOKS LIKE THE FOSTERS ARE WATERING THEIR LAWN AGAIN!
WELL, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID, ABBY -- AND YOU'RE RIGHT!
IT'S USELESS TO GET MAD WHEN THEIR SPRINKLER SOAKS OUR PATIO!
WHAT WE NEED IS A BIGGER SPRINKLER!
WUCKA! WUCKA!

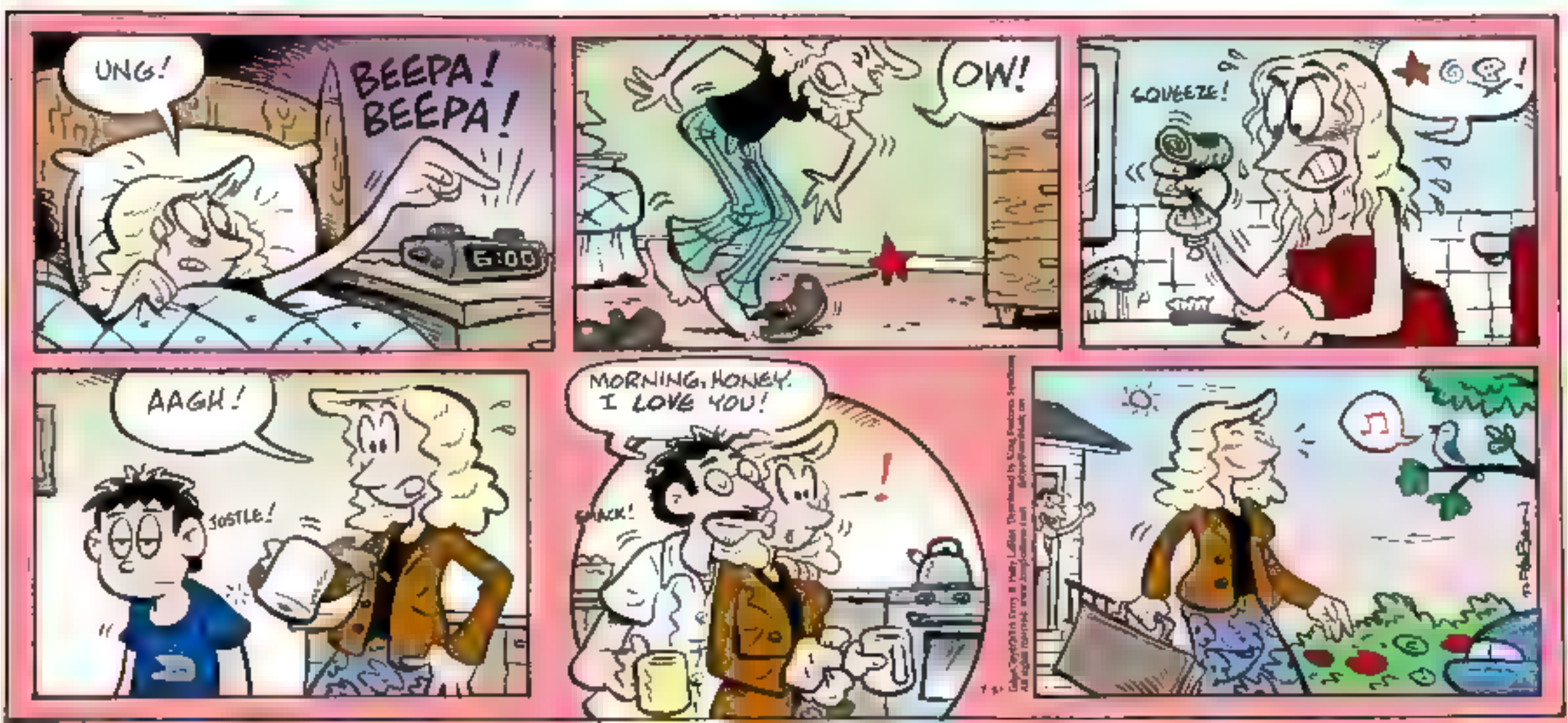

LEN, THE WAY TO GET THE FOSTERS TO STOP SPRAYING OUR PATIO WITH THEIR SPRINKLER ISN'T TO SPRAY THEIR PATIO WITH A BIGGER ONE!
WUCKA WUCKA!
SPRAY!

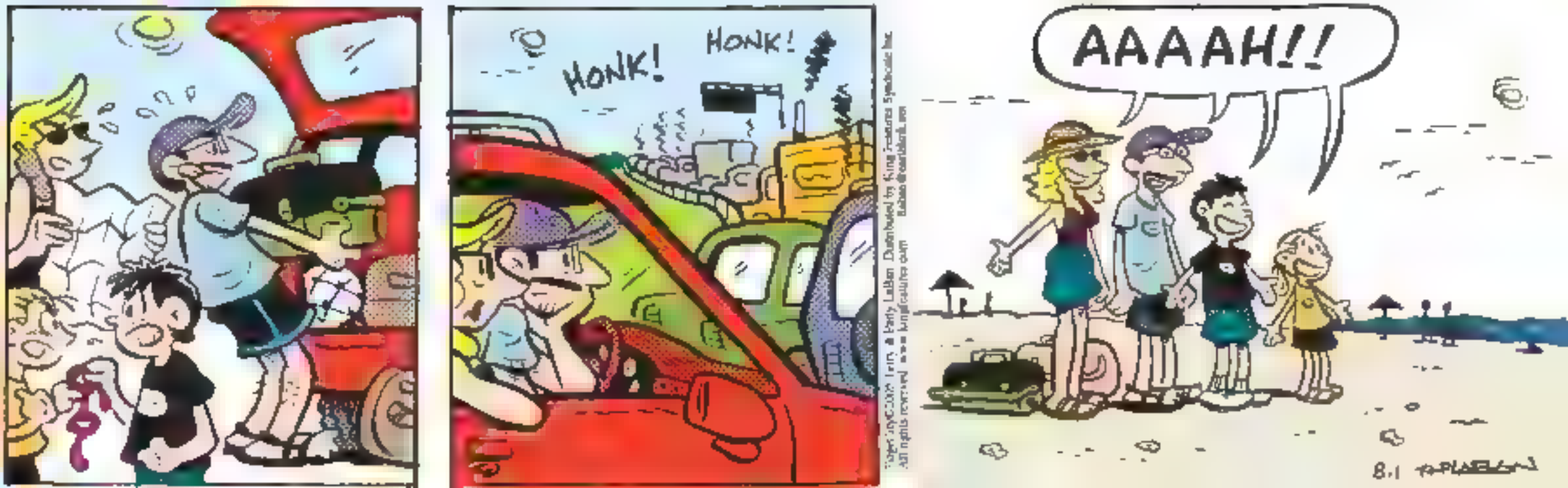

WE'VE TRIED EVERYTHING ELSE, ABBY! SOME PEOPLE ONLY UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE OF FORCE!

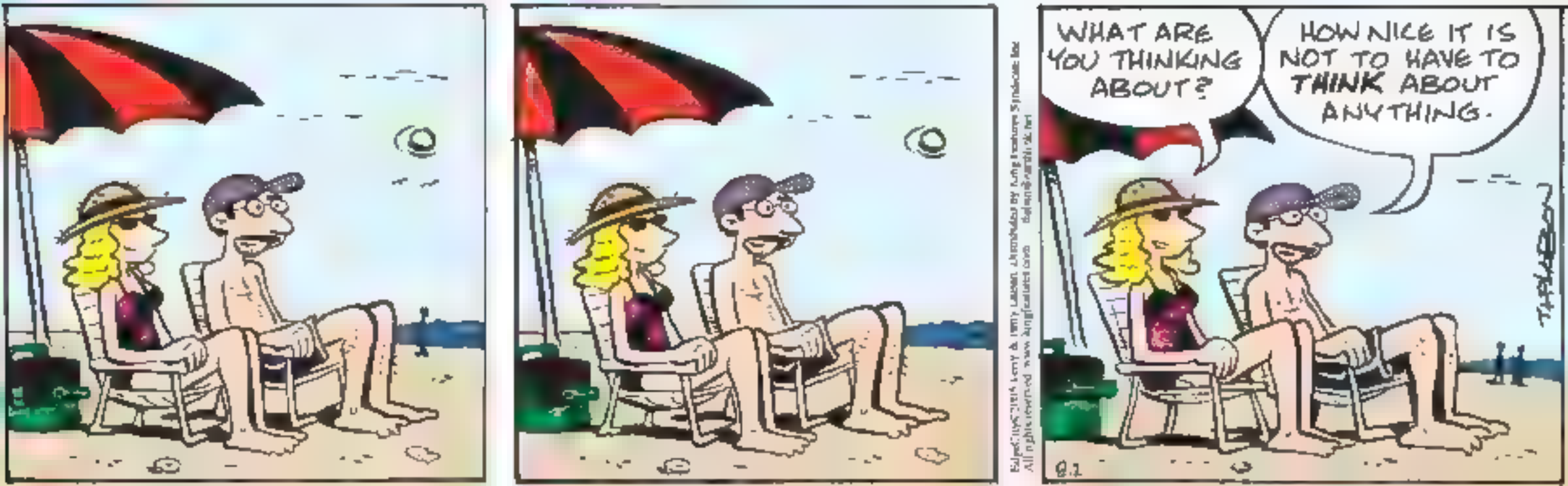
LEN, ABBY-- CAN WE TALK?
A CASE IN POINT...
WUCKA WUCKA!
7-28

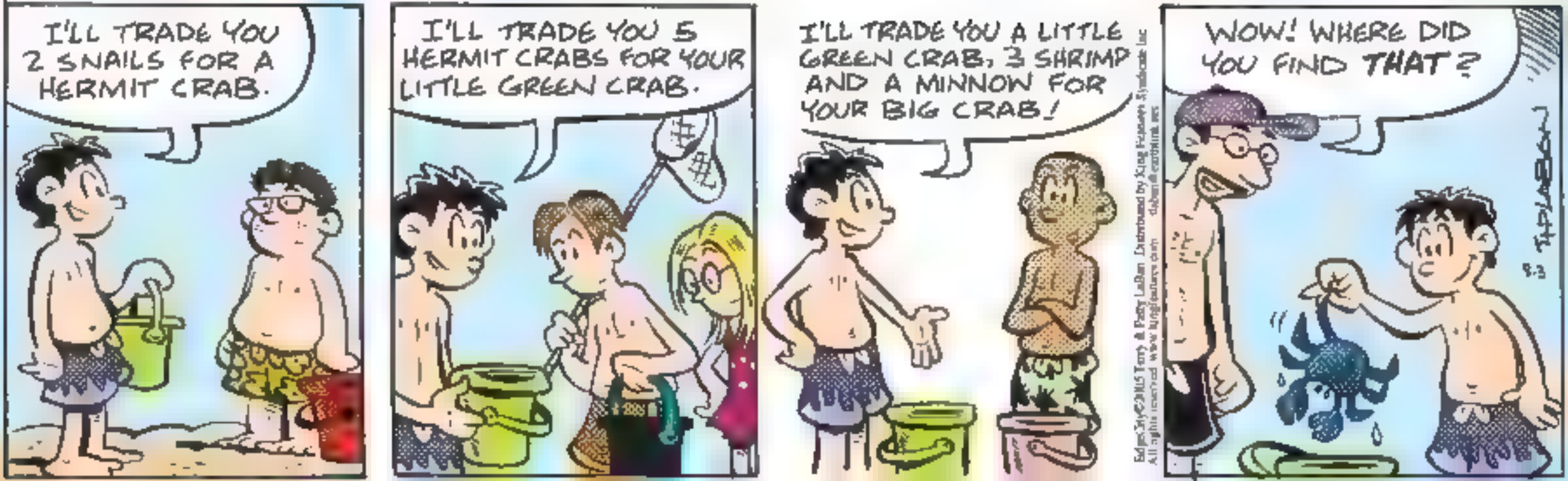
I'VE NOTICED LATELY THAT THE FOSTERS HAVE BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO SOAK OUR PATIO WHEN THEY WATER THEIR LAWN.
YEAH...
I'M GLAD IT'S RESOLVED. NOW WE CAN RELAX AND ENJOY OUR BACKYARD!
7-19
THE LABAN
WHEN DID THEY PUT IN THAT ARC LIGHT?!


CHIRP! CHIRP! CHIRP!
BWANG! BWANG!
WOW! THAT CRICKET ROCKS!
WUCKA WUCKA! SKRONK!


UNG!
BEEPA! BEEPA!
6:00
OW!
SQUEEZE!
AAGH!
JOSTLE!
MORNING, HONEY. I LOVE YOU!
SMACK!


HONK!
HONK!
AAAAH!!


WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
HOW NICE IT IS NOT TO HAVE TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING.
THAVEN



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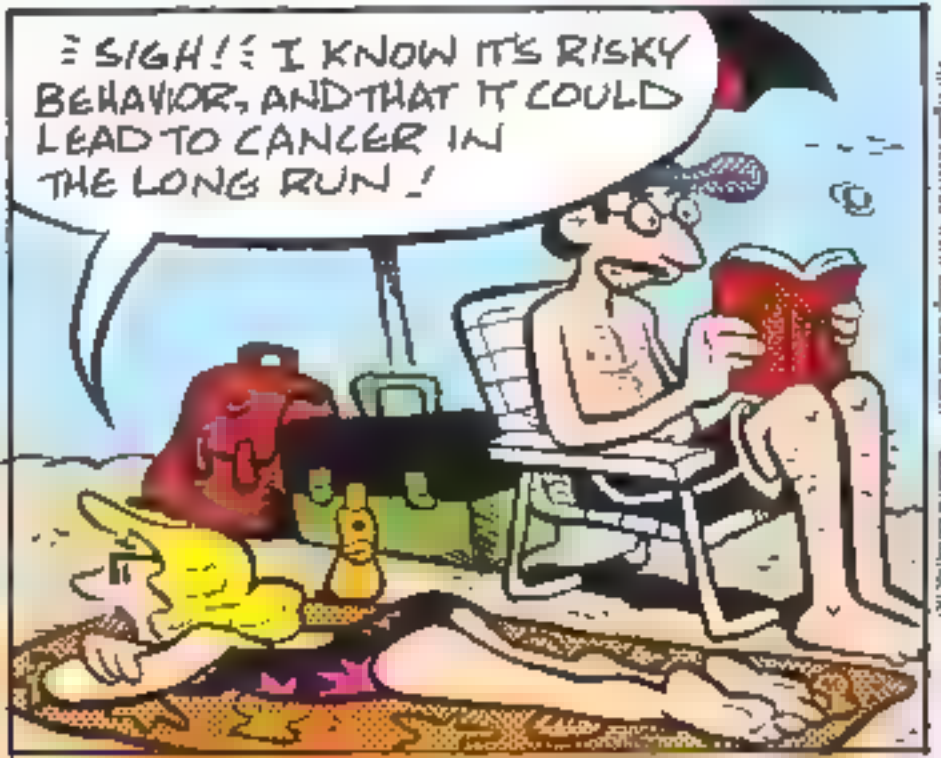

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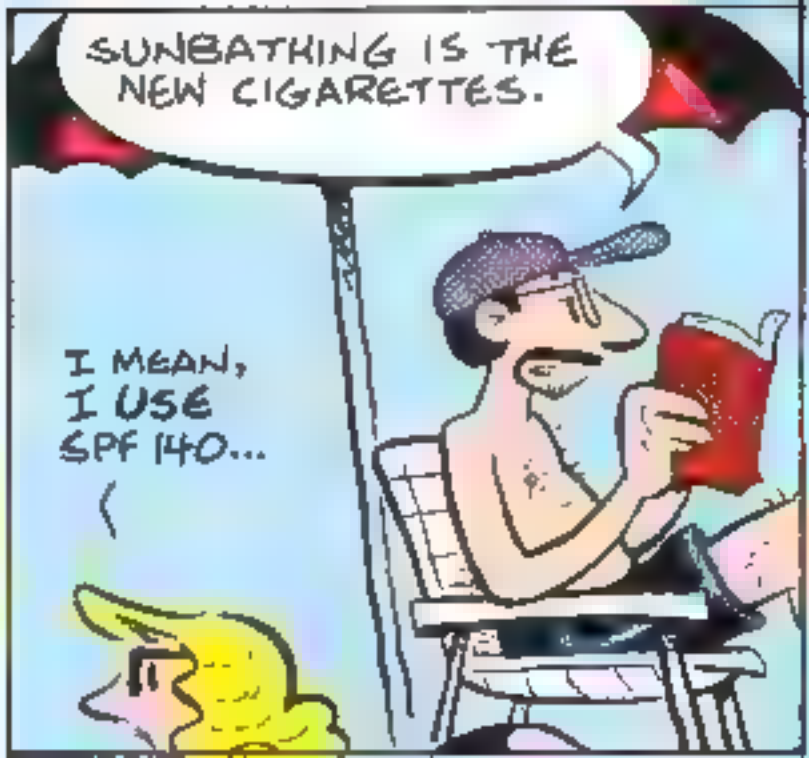
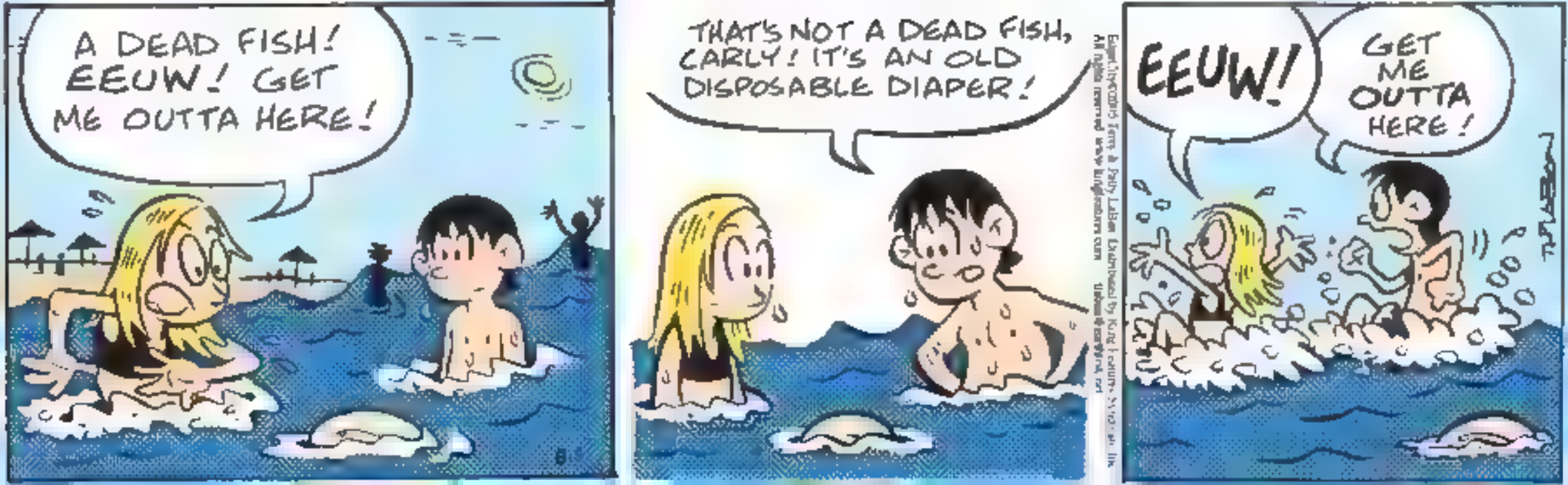
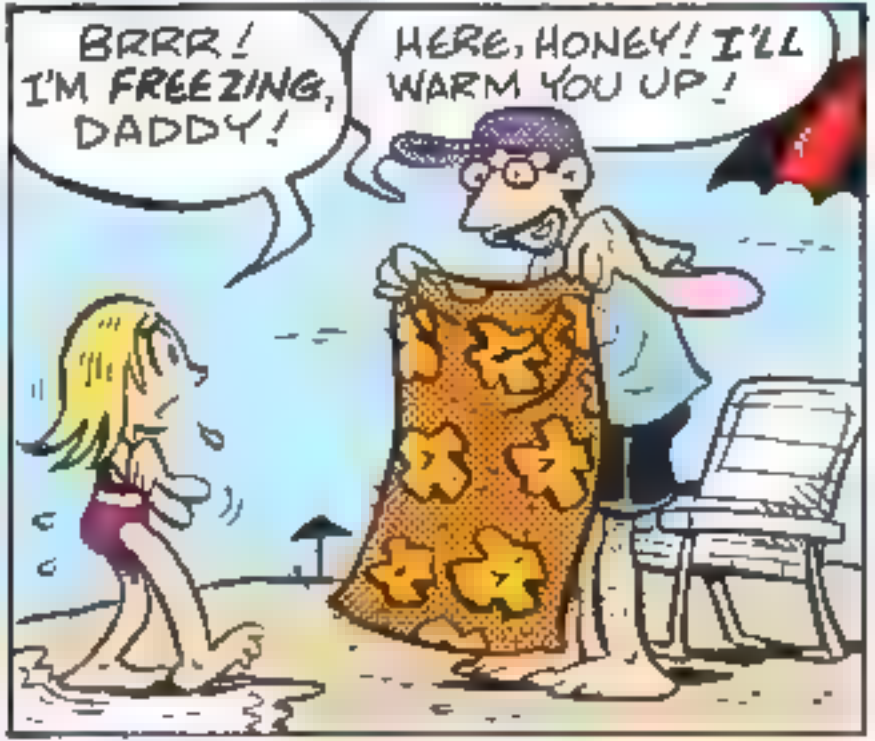
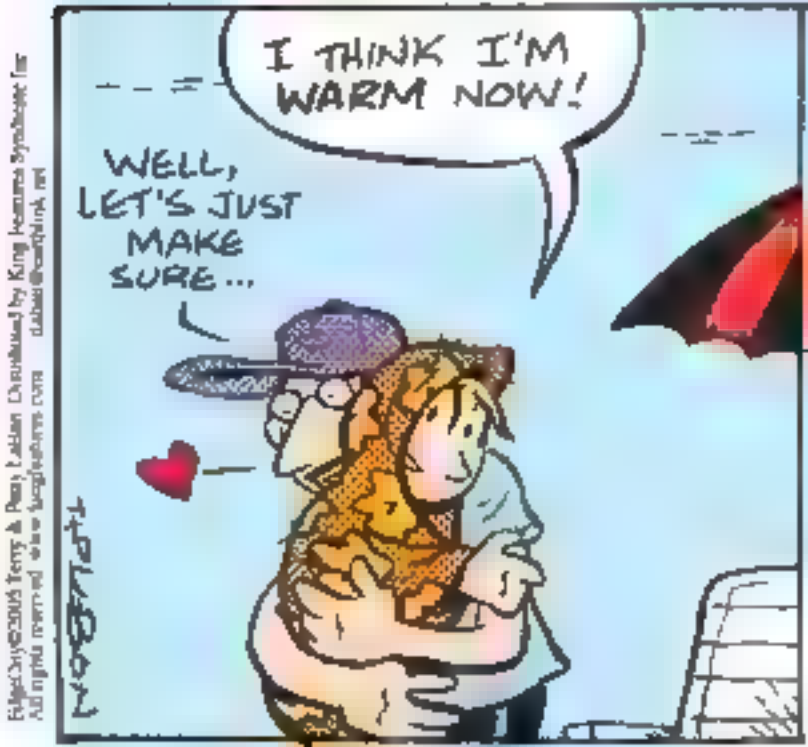



A DEAD FISH! EEUW! GET ME OUTTA HERE!
THAT'S NOT A DEAD FISH, CARLY! IT'S AN OLD DISPOSABLE DIAPER!
EEUW!
GET ME OUTTA HERE!





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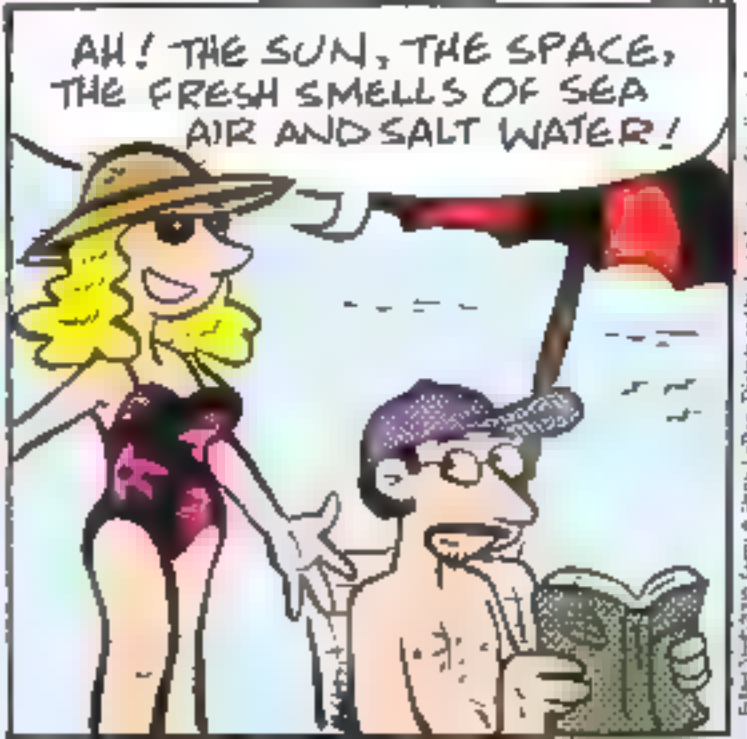
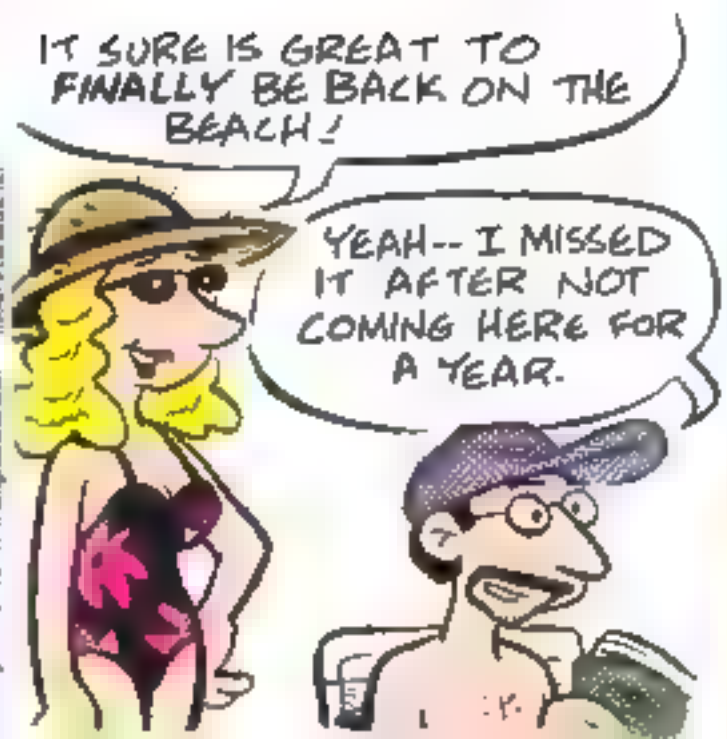
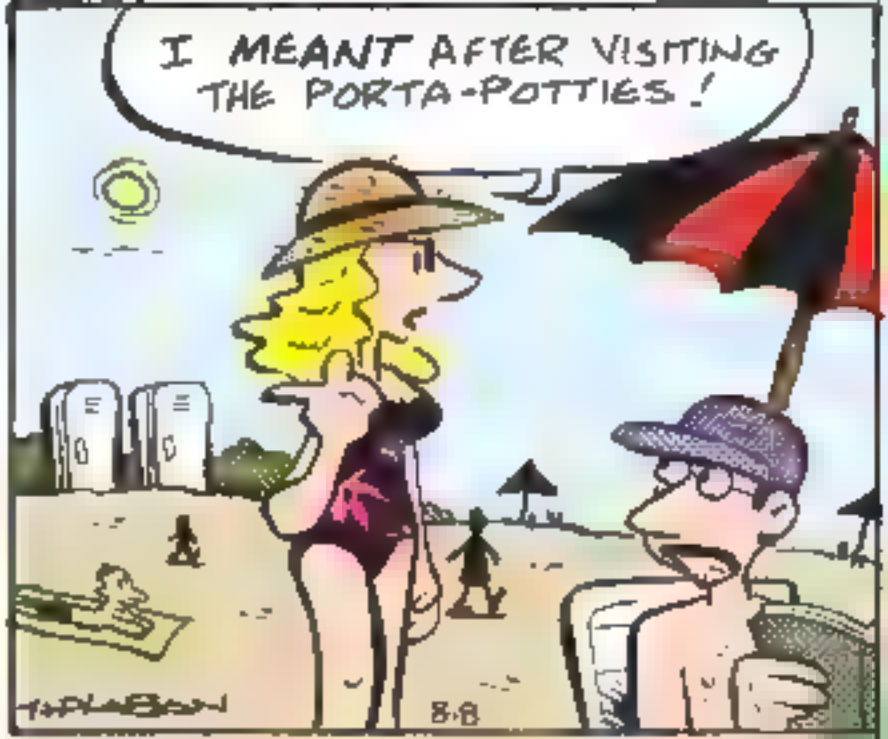
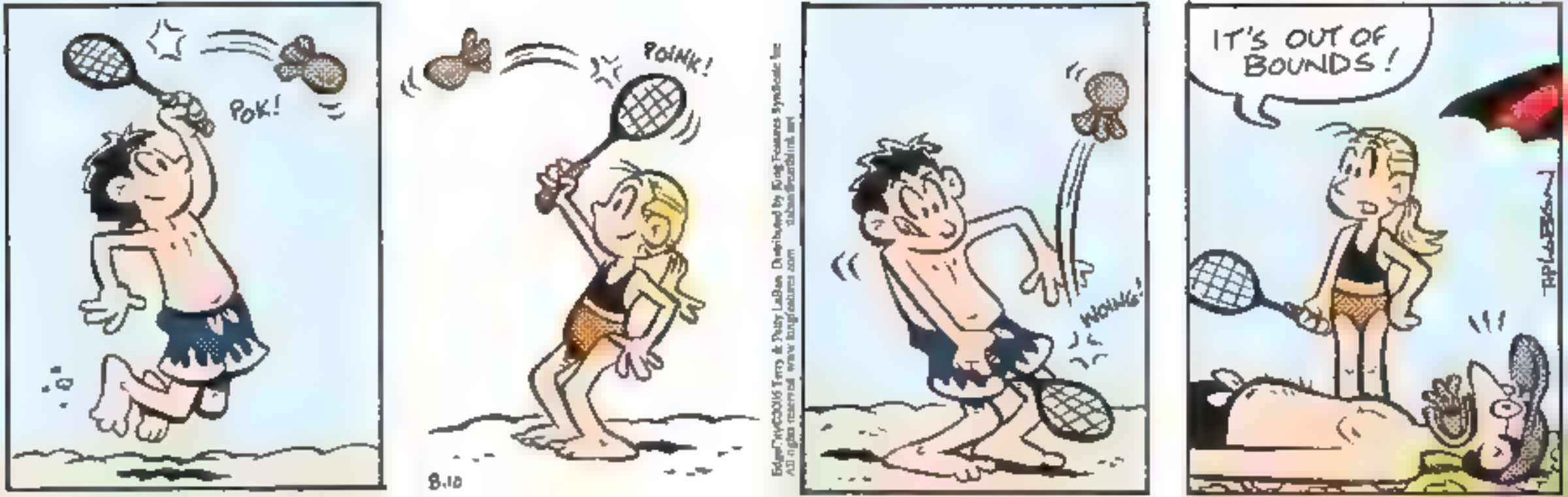
HEY, DAD—WANNA GO BODYSURFING?
SURE, COLIN! I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE!
THIS WAVE'S TOO CLOSE.
TOO FAR!
TOO LITTLE!
FOOSH!
TOO SNEAKY...

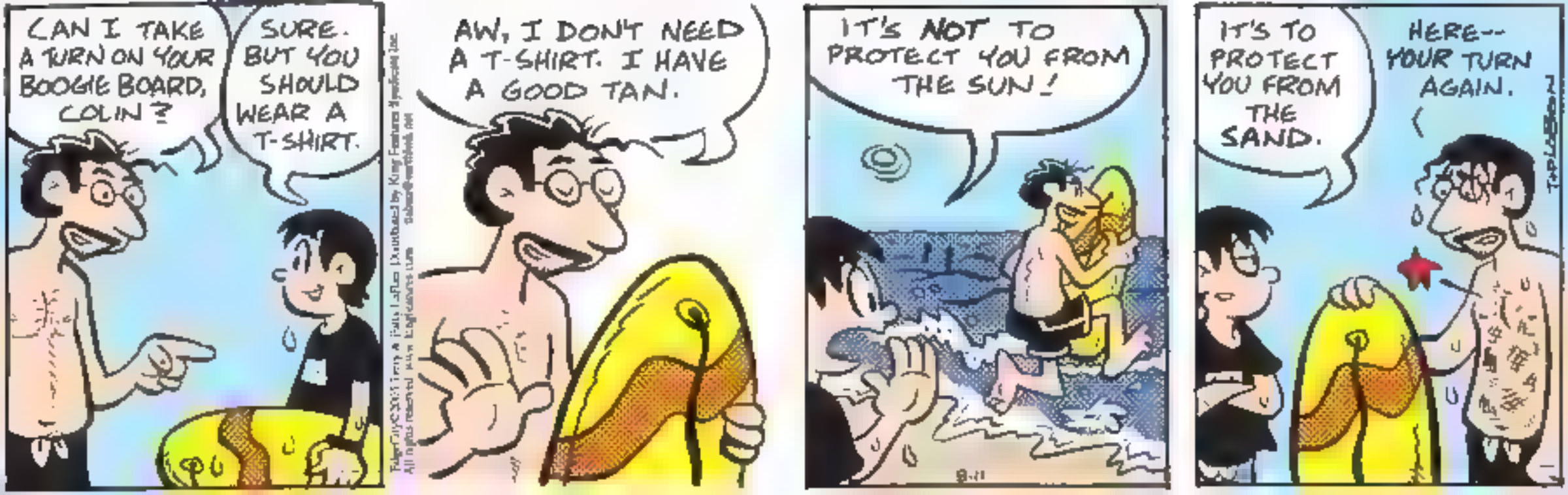

AH! THE SUN, THE SPACE, THE FRESH SMELLS OF SEA AIR AND SALT WATER!

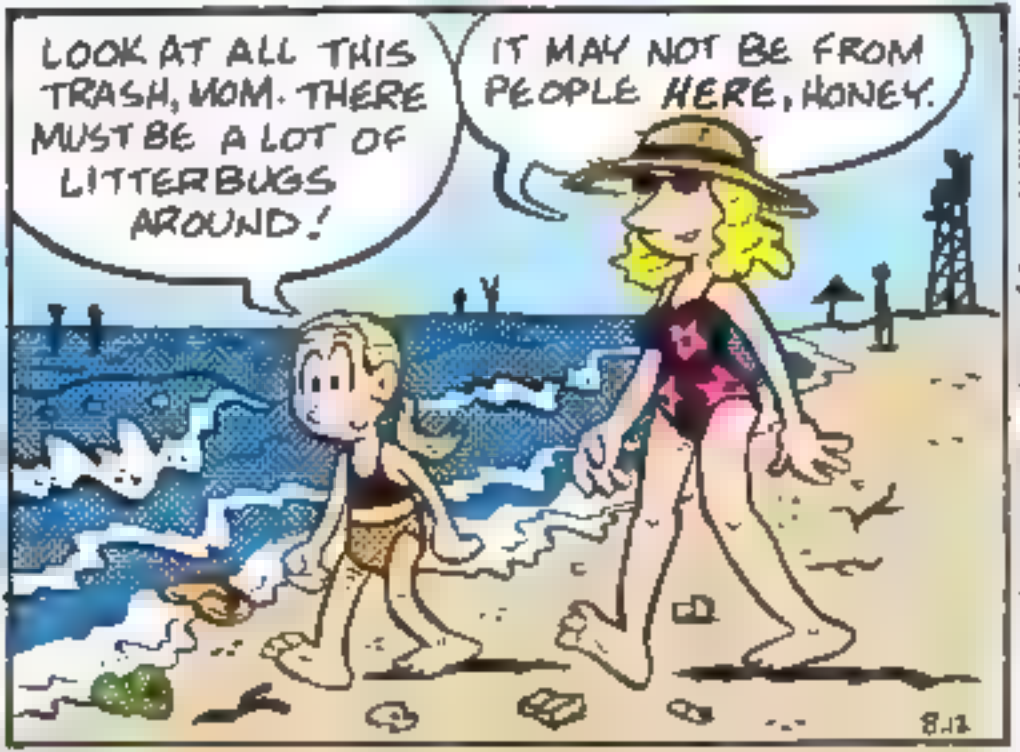

IT SURE IS GREAT TO FINALLY BE BACK ON THE BEACH!
YEAH-- I MISSED IT AFTER NOT COMING HERE FOR A YEAR.


I MEANT AFTER VISITING THE PORTA-POTTIES!

LET'S HAVE LUNCH! I PACKED SANDWICHES, CHIPS, POTATO SALAD AND DRINKS!
NO THANKS.
IT'S ALMOST 1:00! ISN'T ANYONE HUNGRY?
NOT REALLY...
...WE JUST WENT TO THE SNACK BAR.
PIZZA

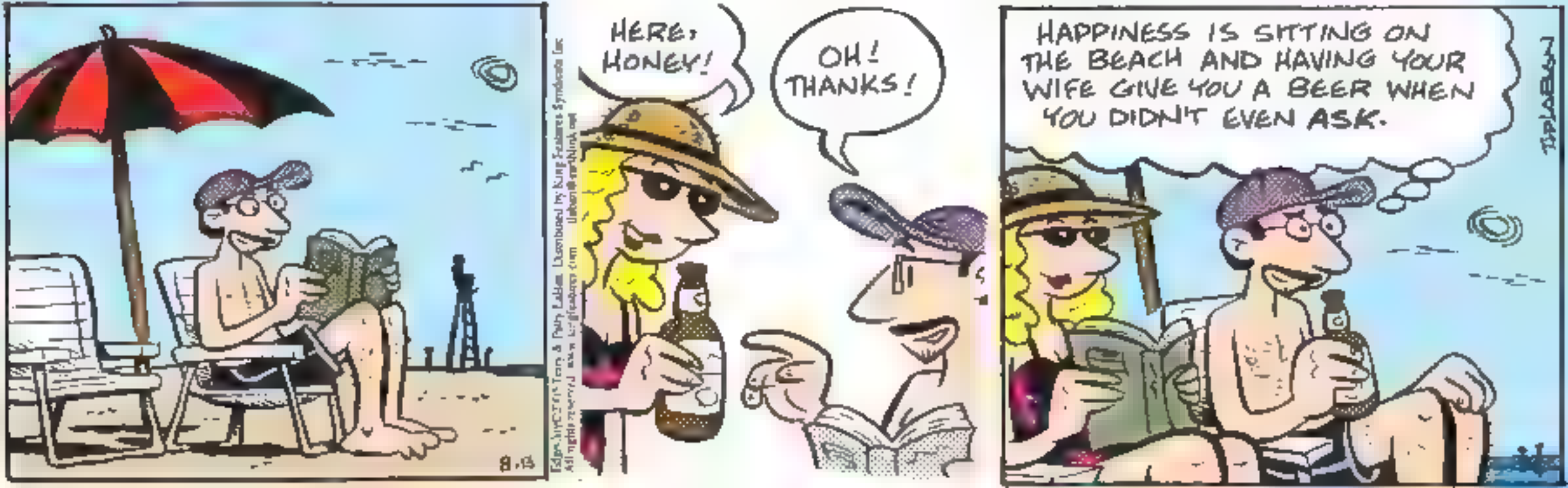

POK!
POINK!
8.10
WOING!
IT'S OUT OF BOUNDS!


CAN I TAKE A TURN ON YOUR BOOGIE BOARD, COLIN?
SURE. BUT YOU SHOULD WEAR A T-SHIRT.
AW, I DON'T NEED A T-SHIRT. I HAVE A GOOD TAN.
IT'S NOT TO PROTECT YOU FROM THE SUN!
IT'S TO PROTECT YOU FROM THE SAND.
HERE-- YOUR TURN AGAIN.

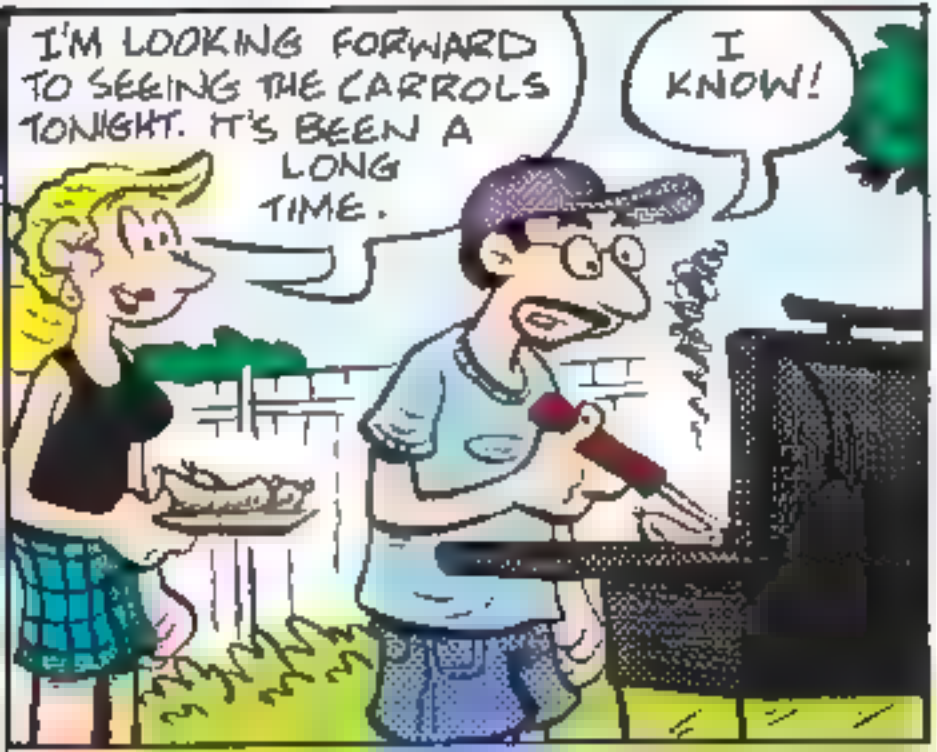

LOOK AT ALL THIS TRASH, MOM. THERE MUST BE A LOT OF LITTERBUGS AROUND!
IT MAY NOT BE FROM PEOPLE HERE, HONEY.

THAT WATER BOTTLE, FOR INSTANCE, MAY HAVE BEEN THROWN OUT IN EUROPE AND TRAVELED THOUSANDS OF MILES ACROSS THE SEA!

WHOA!
WONDER IS WHERE YOU FIND IT!

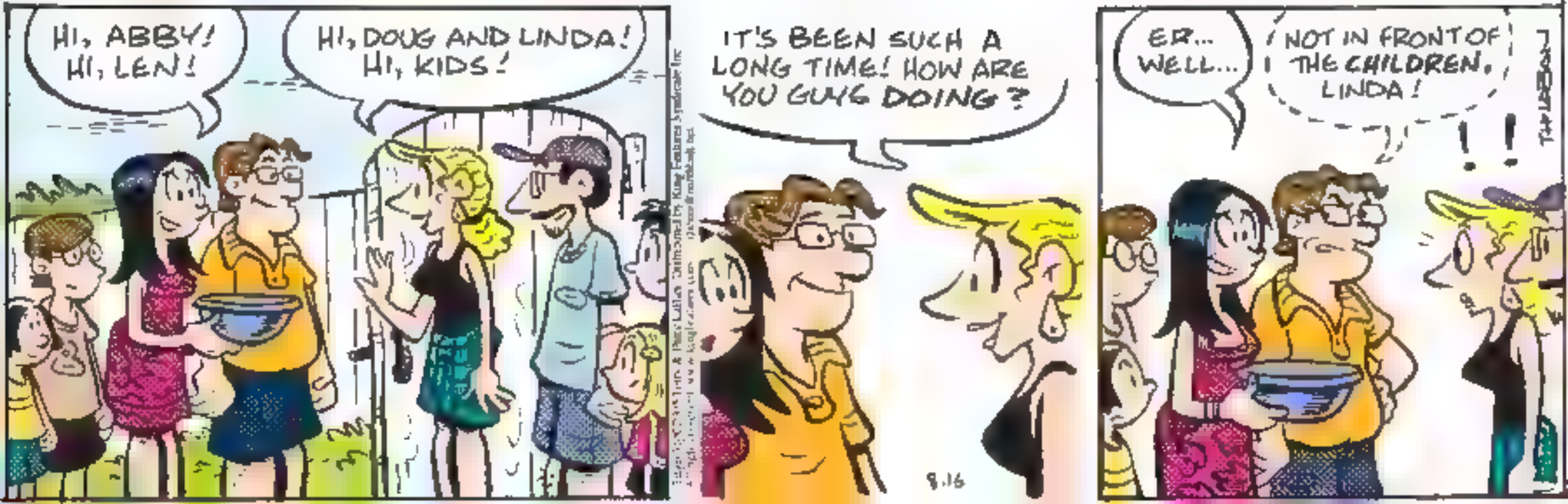

HERE, HONEY!
OH! THANKS!
HAPPINESS IS SITTING ON THE BEACH AND HAVING YOUR WIFE GIVE YOU A BEER WHEN YOU DIDN'T EVEN ASK.

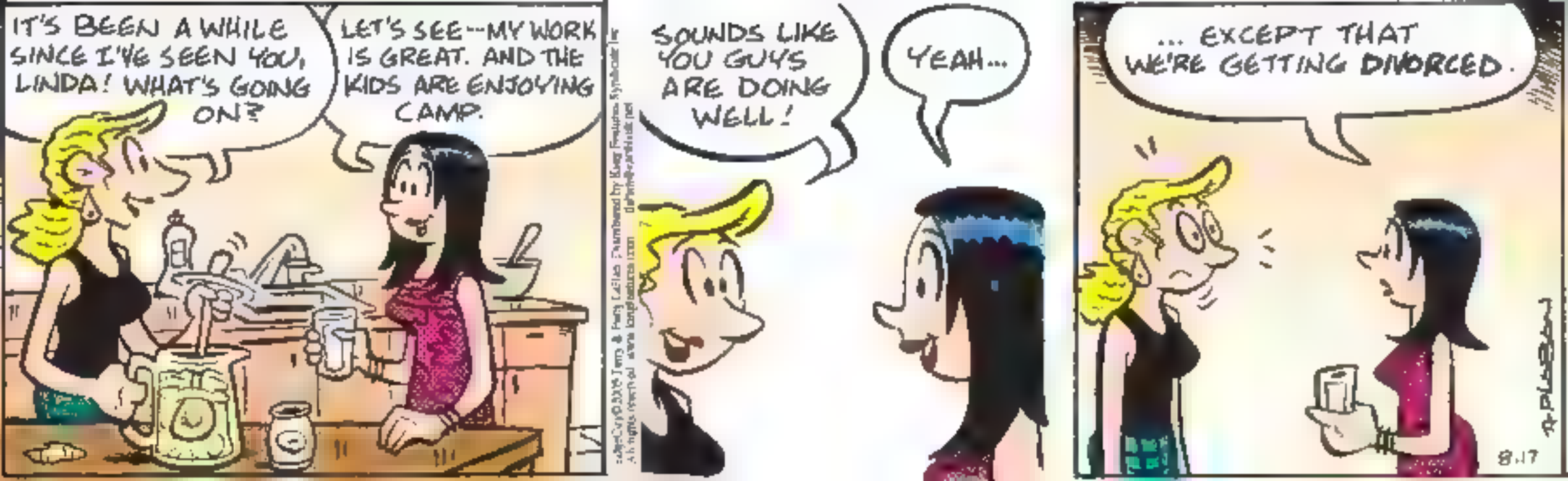
HI, ABBY!
HI, MOM! HOW'S YOUR VACATION GOING?
LOVELY! I JUST WISH I COULD GET YOUR FATHER TO JOIN ME FOR SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES HERE!
WELL, MOM-- YOU KNOW DAD'S NOT AS ADVENTUROUS AS YOU!
AND TO BE FAIR, YOU CAN BE HARD TO KEEP UP WITH!
HE COULD AT LEAST TRY ONCE IN A WHILE! ANYWAY...
... I HAVE TO GO. IT'S STILL ANOTHER 200 FEET TO THE SUMMIT!


I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE CARROLS TONIGHT. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.
I KNOW!

IT'S BEEN ALMOST A YEAR, HASN'T IT? WHY IS THAT?
8.15

IT TOOK THAT LONG TO FIND A DATE WHEN WE WERE ALL FREE.
SIGH...


HI, ABBY! HI, LEN!
HI, DOUG AND LINDA! HI, KIDS!
IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME! HOW ARE YOU GUYS DOING?
9.16
ER... WELL...
NOT IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN, LINDA!
!!


IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU, LINDA! WHAT'S GOING ON?
LET'S SEE--MY WORK IS GREAT. AND THE KIDS ARE ENJOYING CAMP.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU GUYS ARE DOING WELL!
YEAH...
... EXCEPT THAT WE'RE GETTING DIVORCED.
8.17

HAVEN'T BEEN HERE FOR A WHILE, LEN. THE HOUSE LOOKS GOOD.
THANKS, DOUG. WE JUST HAD IT PAINTED.

I WAS THINKING OF PUTTING AN ADDITION ON OUR KITCHEN IN THE FALL. BUT NOW THAT LINDA AND I ARE GETTING DIVORCED...
8-18

OH! DIDN'T I MENTION THAT?
SPAT!

YOU AND DOUG ARE GETTING DIVORCED, LINDA? WHY?

I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE, ABBY!

DOUG WORKS ALL THE TIME, AND WHEN HE IS HOME, HE'S TOTALLY UNCOMMUNICATIVE! I FEEL COMPLETELY ALONE!

8-19

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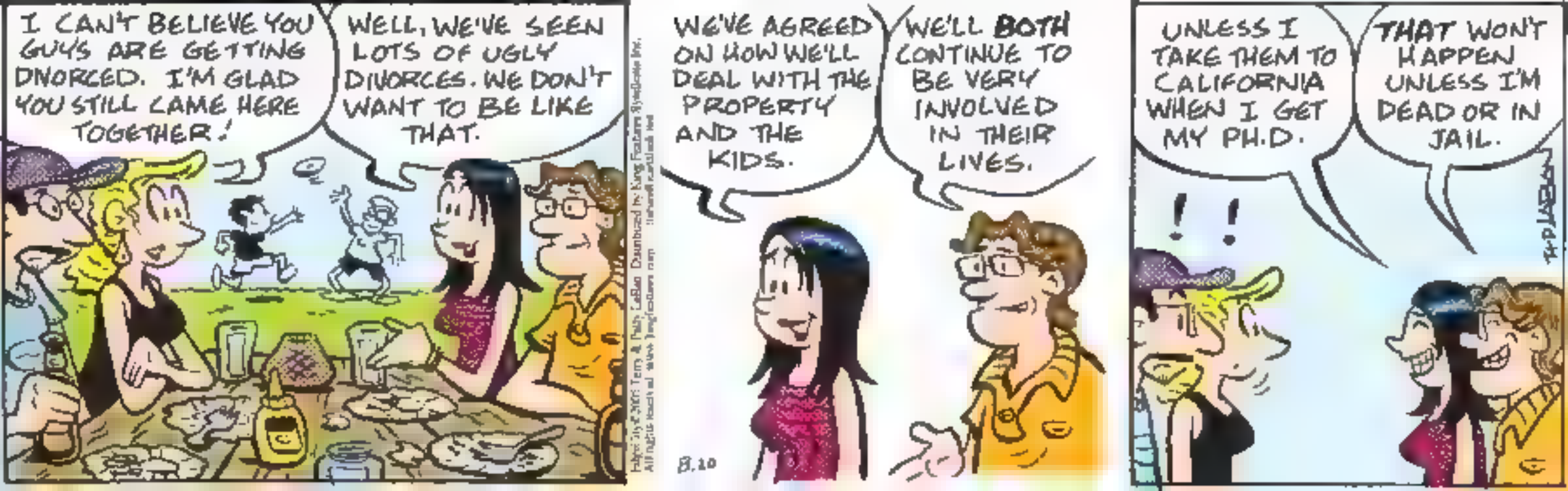
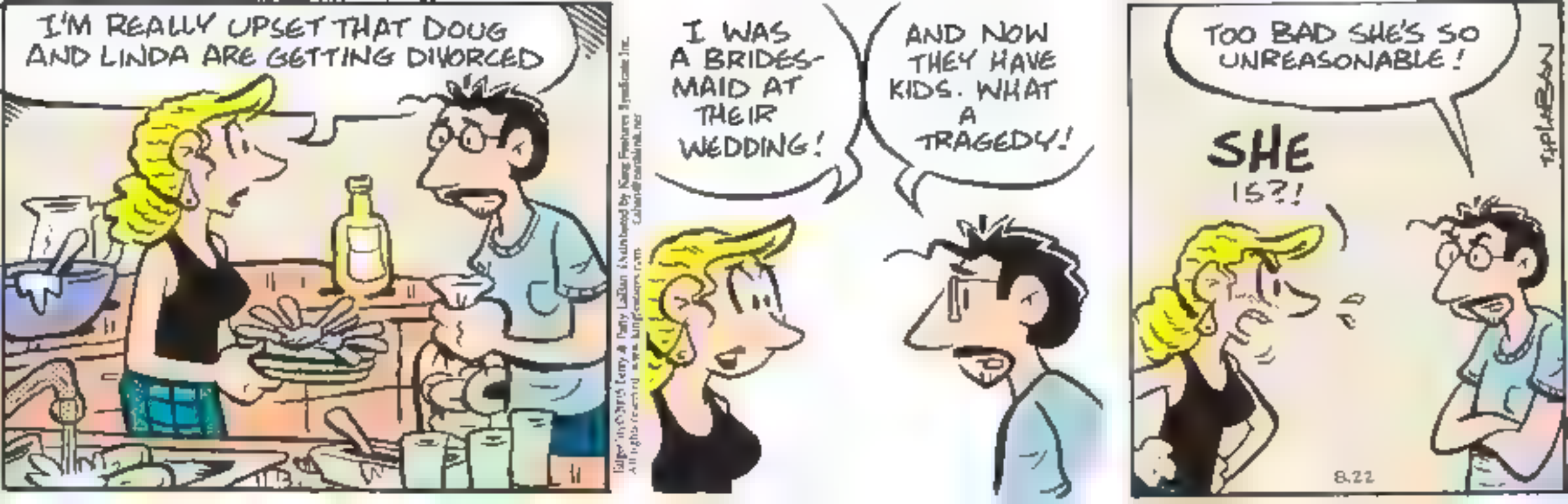
I'VE TRIED TALKING TO HIM... WE'VE EVEN HAD COUNSELING! IT'S DONE NO GOOD AT ALL!

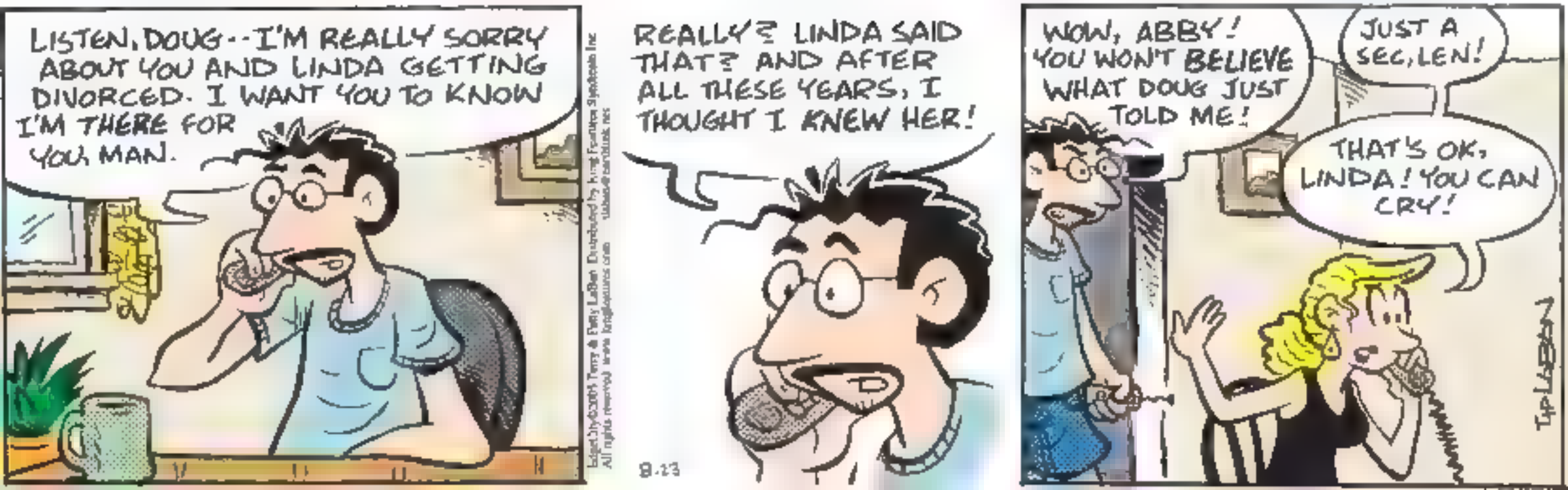
YOU AND LINDA ARE GETTING DIVORCED, DOUG? WHY?

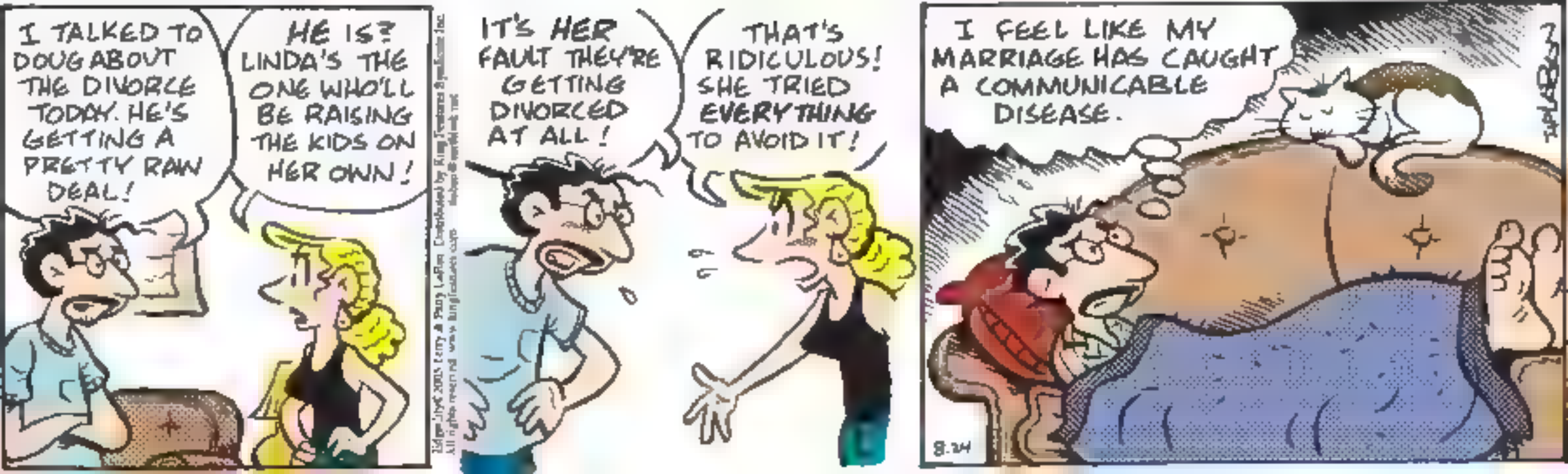
BEATS ME, LEN. FAR AS I CAN SEE, EVERYTHING'S FINE!

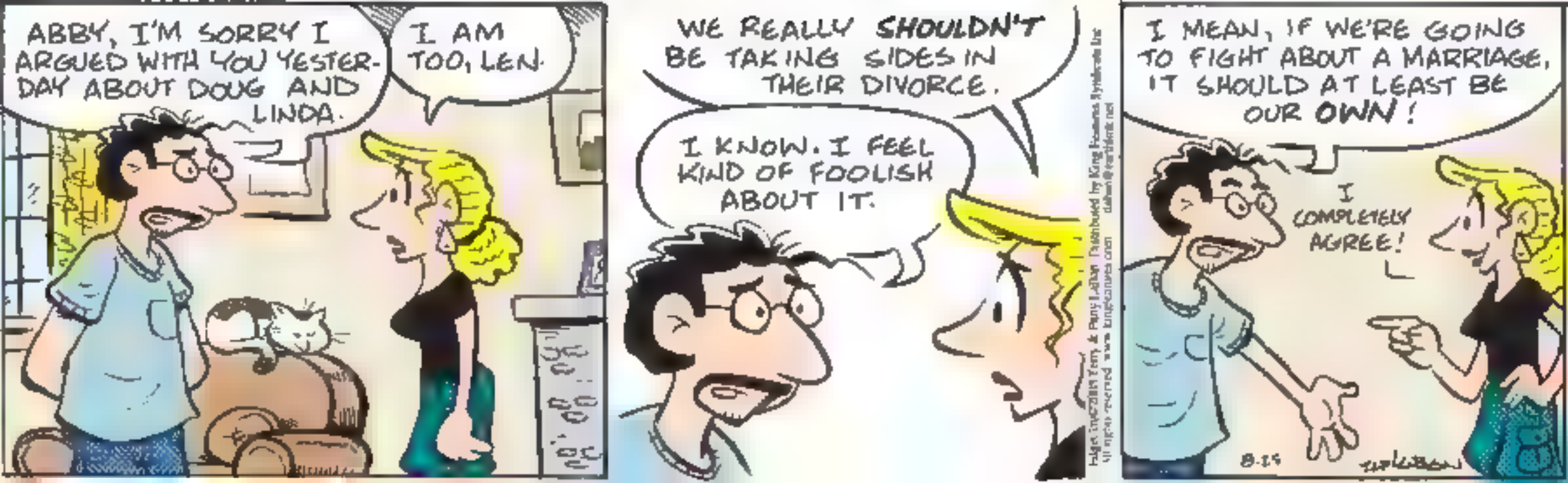

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GUYS ARE GETTING DIVORCED. I'M GLAD YOU STILL CAME HERE TOGETHER!
WELL, WE'VE SEEN LOTS OF UGLY DIVORCES. WE DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE THAT.
WE'VE AGREED ON HOW WE'LL DEAL WITH THE PROPERTY AND THE KIDS.
WE'LL BOTH CONTINUE TO BE VERY INVOLVED IN THEIR LIVES.
UNLESS I TAKE THEM TO CALIFORNIA WHEN I GET MY PH.D.
THAT WON'T HAPPEN UNLESS I'M DEAD OR IN JAIL.
! !
B.10

150 SOUTH CLOSED DOWNTOWN FOLLOW FARLY AVE. SOUTH
FARLY AVE. SOUTH CLOSED USE ZANES RD. EAST
ZANES RD. EAST CLOSED USE OLD U.S. 15 WEST
OLD U.S. 15 WEST CLOSED USE COUNTY KANE RD.
RAJIV? I'M GOING TO BE A LITTLE LATE...

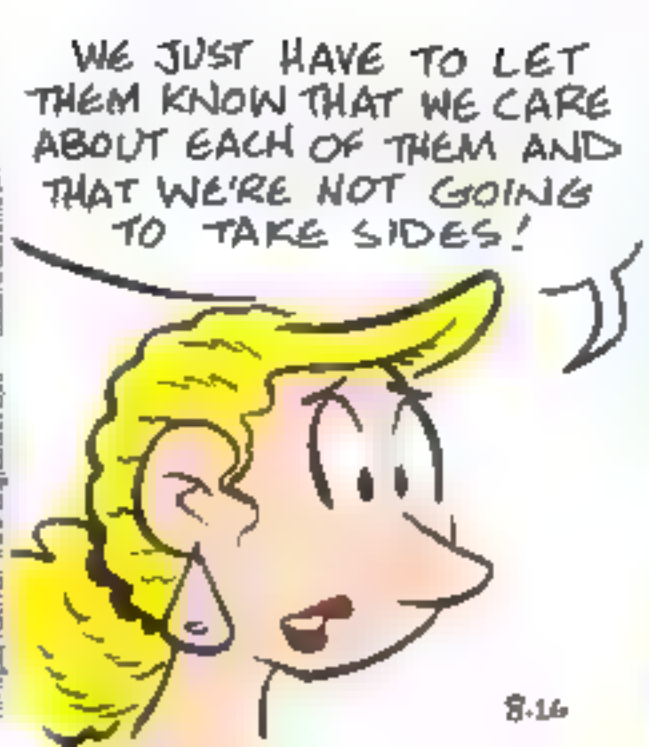

I'M REALLY UPSET THAT DOUG AND LINDA ARE GETTING DIVORCED
I WAS A BRIDES-MAID AT THEIR WEDDING!
AND NOW THEY HAVE KIDS. WHAT A TRAGEDY!
TOO BAD SHE'S SO UNREASONABLE!
SHE IS?!
8.22

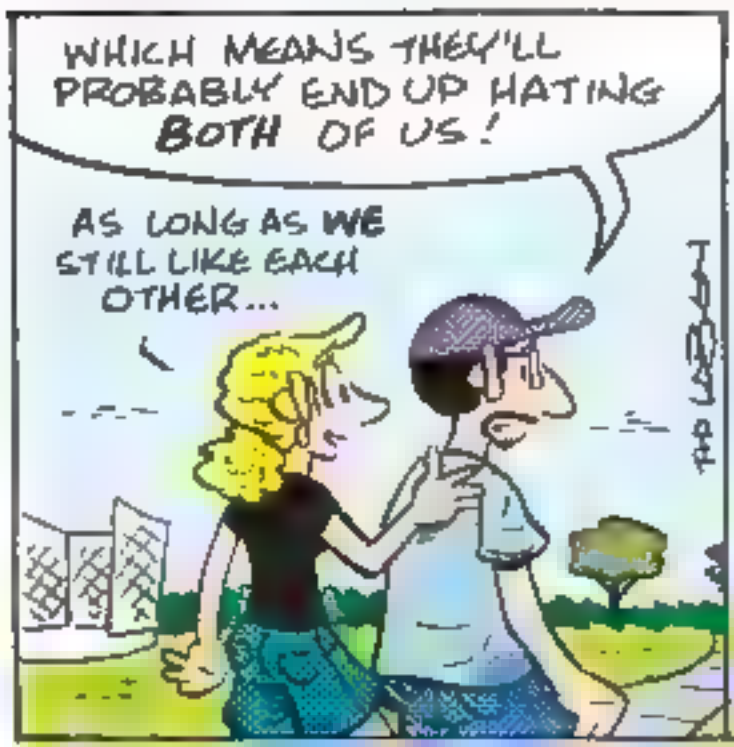

LISTEN, DOUG--I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT YOU AND LINDA GETTING DIVORCED. I WANT YOU TO KNOW I'M THERE FOR YOU, MAN.
REALLY? LINDA SAID THAT? AND AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, I THOUGHT I KNEW HER!
WOW, ABBY! YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT DOUG JUST TOLD ME!
JUST A SEC, LEN!
THAT'S OK, LINDA! YOU CAN CRY!
TIP LABAN


I TALKED TO DOUG ABOUT THE DIVORCE TODAY. HE'S GETTING A PRETTY RAW DEAL!
HE IS? LINDA'S THE ONE WHO'LL BE RAISING THE KIDS ON HER OWN!
IT'S HER FAULT THEY'RE GETTING DIVORCED AT ALL!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS! SHE TRIED EVERYTHING TO AVOID IT!
I FEEL LIKE MY MARRIAGE HAS CAUGHT A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE.
8.24


ABBY, I'M SORRY I ARGUED WITH YOU YESTERDAY ABOUT DOUG AND LINDA.
I AM TOO, LEN.
WE REALLY SHOULDN'T BE TAKING SIDES IN THEIR DIVORCE.
I KNOW. I FEEL KIND OF FOOLISH ABOUT IT.
I MEAN, IF WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT ABOUT A MARRIAGE, IT SHOULD AT LEAST BE OUR OWN!
I COMPLETELY AGREE!

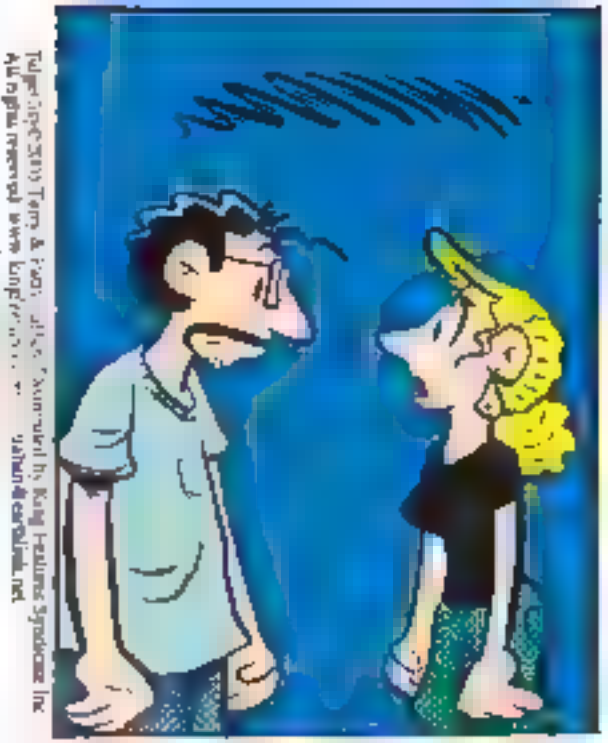
HOW ARE WE GOING TO DEAL WITH DOUG AND LINDA NOW THAT THEY'RE GETTING DIVORCED?
IT WON'T BE EASY, LEN.


WE JUST HAVE TO LET THEM KNOW THAT WE CARE ABOUT EACH OF THEM AND THAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE SIDES!
8-16

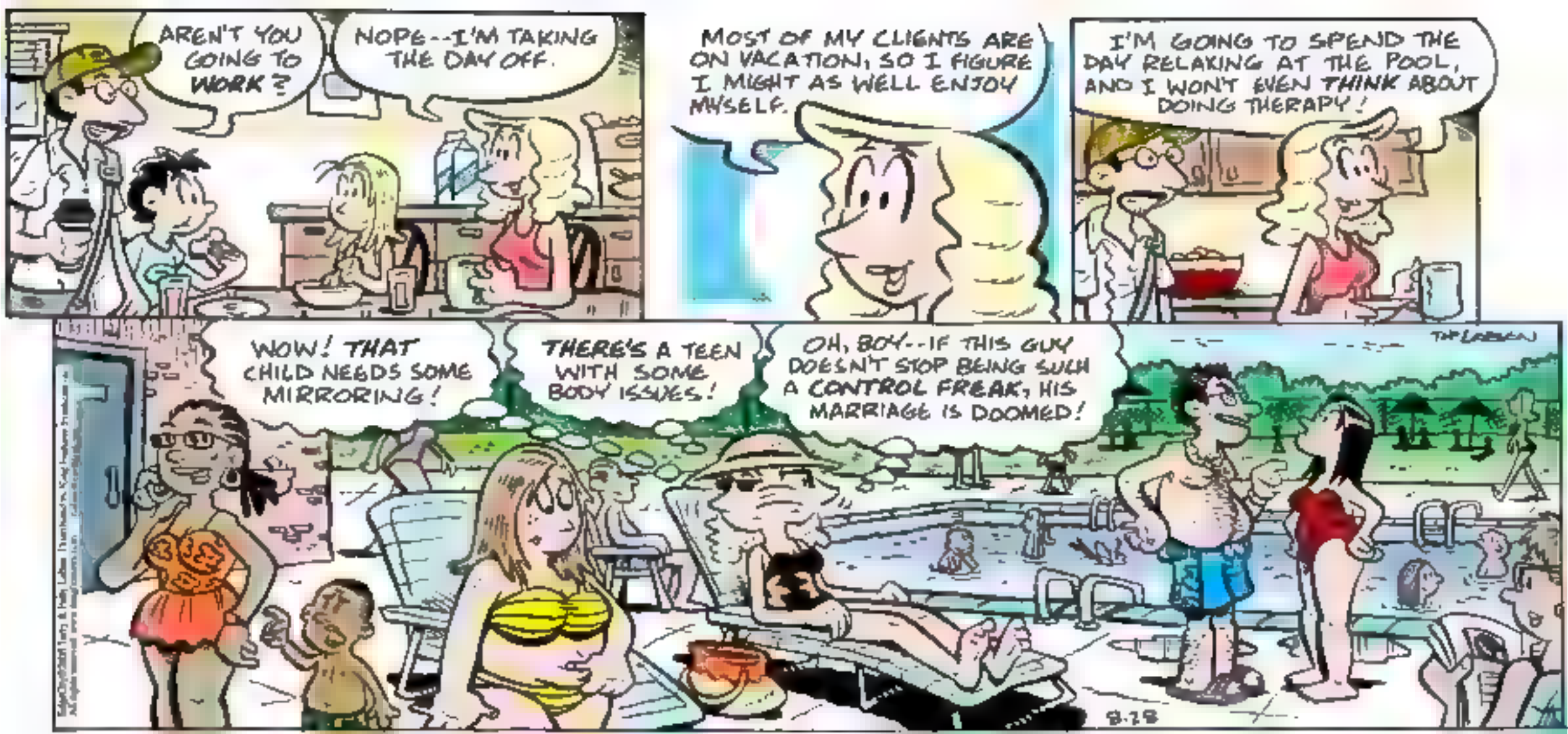

WHICH MEANS THEY'LL PROBABLY END UP HATING BOTH OF US!
AS LONG AS WE STILL LIKE EACH OTHER...

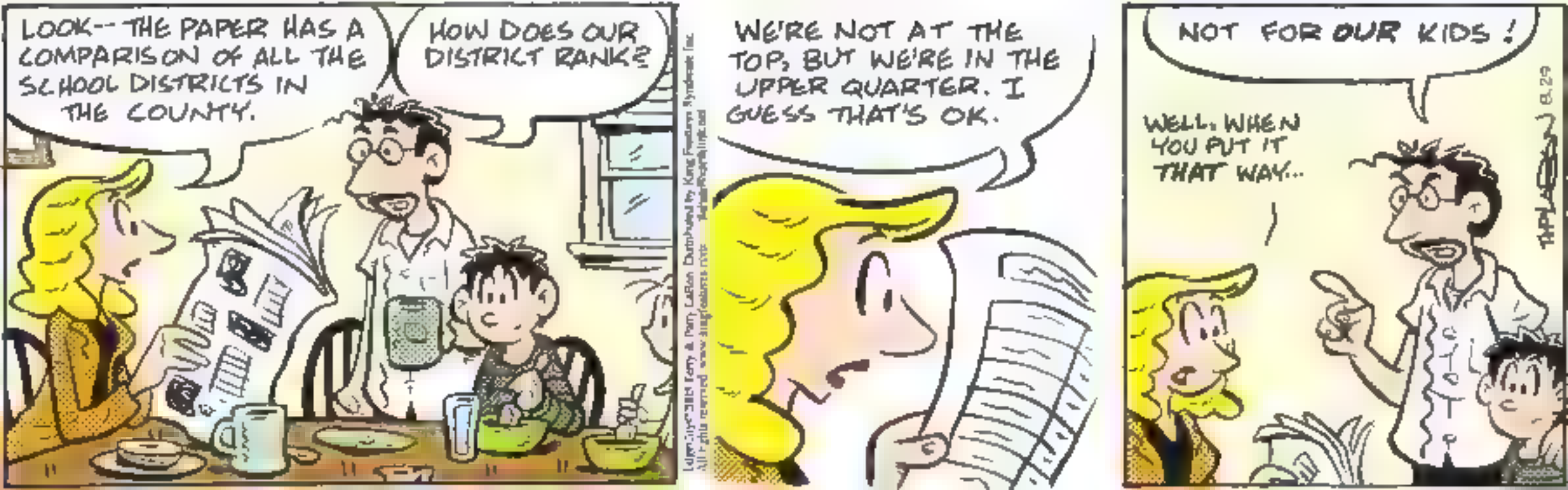
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE DOUG AND LINDA ARE GETTING DIVORCED.
I KNOW! THEY SEEMED SO GOOD TOGETHER.

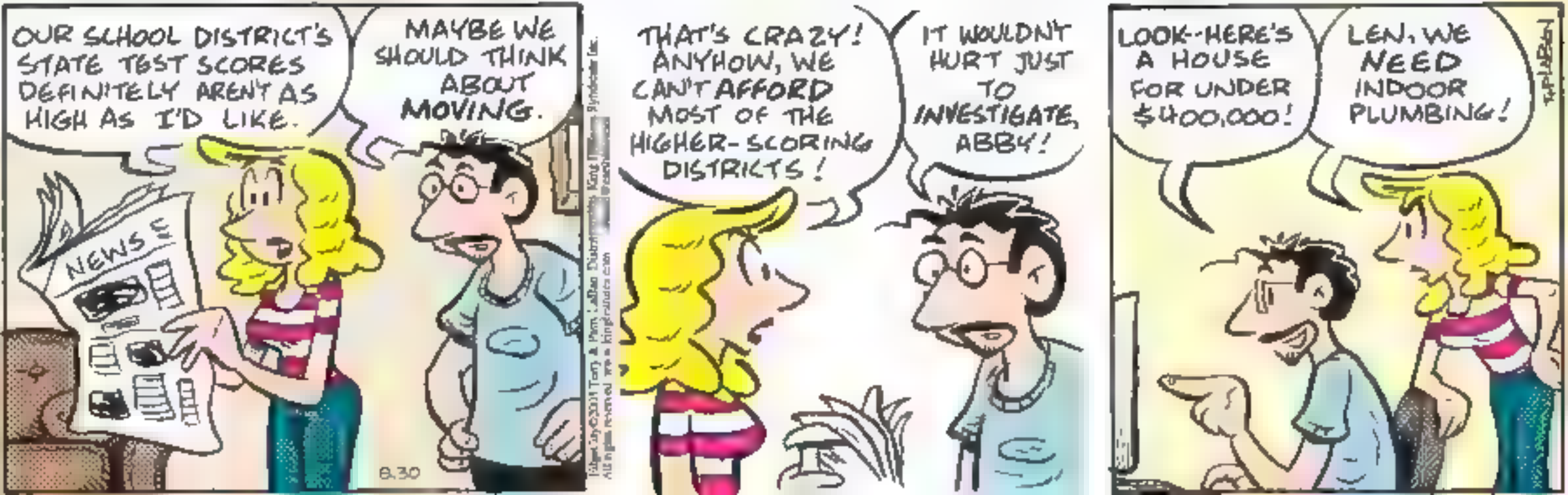
I GUESS YOU CAN'T TAKE MARRIAGE FOR GRANTED! NO MATTER HOW SOLID IT SEEMS, IT CAN ALWAYS FALL APART!
8-27

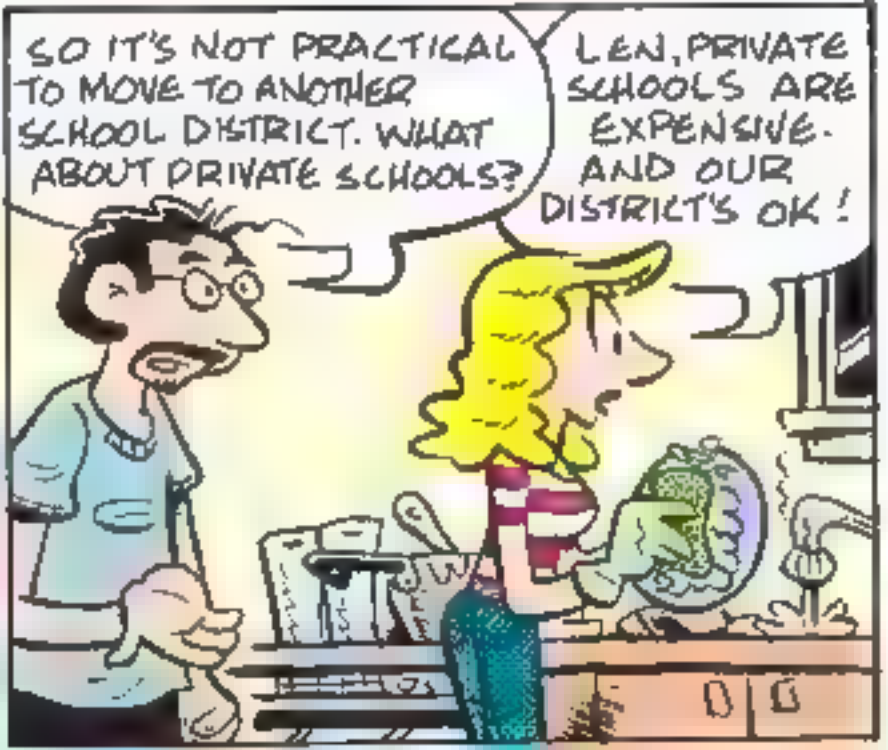


NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
SIGH!


AREN'T YOU GOING TO WORK?
NOPE--I'M TAKING THE DAY OFF.
MOST OF MY CLIENTS ARE ON VACATION, SO I FIGURE I MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY MYSELF.
I'M GOING TO SPEND THE DAY RELAXING AT THE POOL, AND I WON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT DOING THERAPY!
WOW! THAT CHILD NEEDS SOME MIRRORING!
THERE'S A TEEN WITH SOME BODY ISSUES!
OH, BOY--IF THIS GUY DOESN'T STOP BEING SUCH A CONTROL FREAK, HIS MARRIAGE IS DOOMED!
THE LABBAN
8-28


LOOK-- THE PAPER HAS A COMPARISON OF ALL THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE COUNTY.
HOW DOES OUR DISTRICT RANK?
WE'RE NOT AT THE TOP, BUT WE'RE IN THE UPPER QUARTER. I GUESS THAT'S OK.
NOT FOR OUR KIDS!
WELL, WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...
8.29


OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT'S STATE TEST SCORES DEFINITELY AREN'T AS HIGH AS I'D LIKE.
MAYBE WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT MOVING.
NEWS
8.30
THAT'S CRAZY! ANYHOW, WE CAN'T AFFORD MOST OF THE HIGHER-SCORING DISTRICTS!
IT WOULDN'T HURT JUST TO INVESTIGATE, ABBY!
LOOK--HERE'S A HOUSE FOR UNDER $400,000!
LEN, WE NEED INDOOR PLUMBING!



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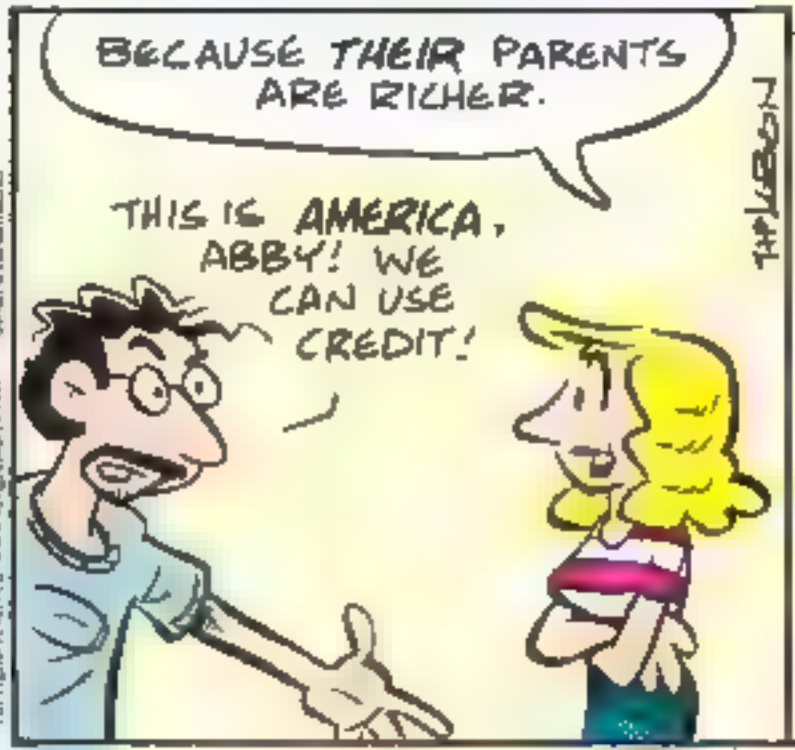
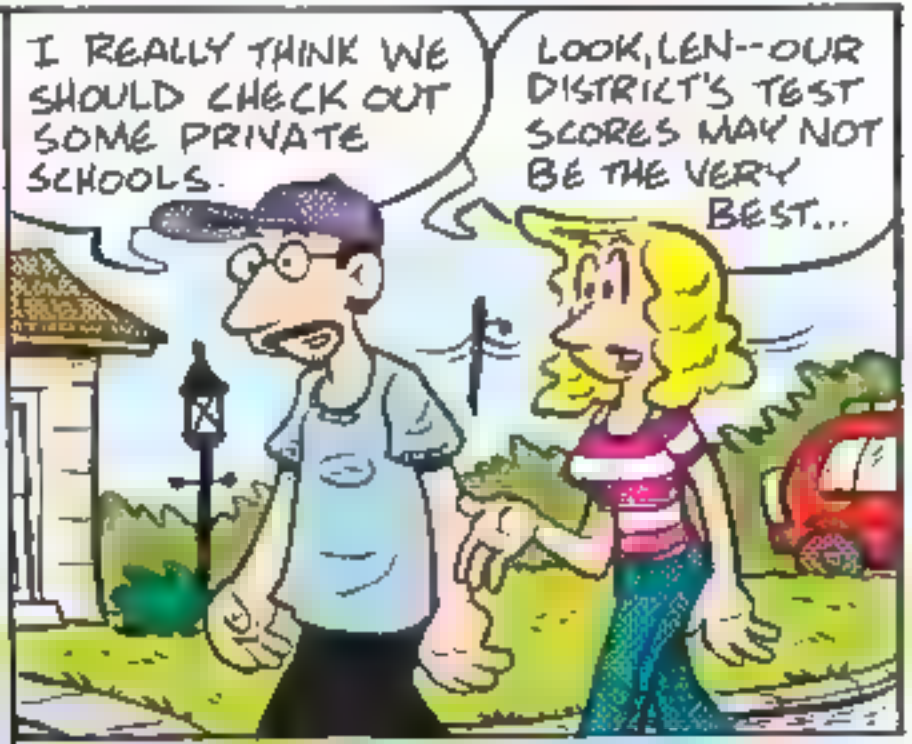
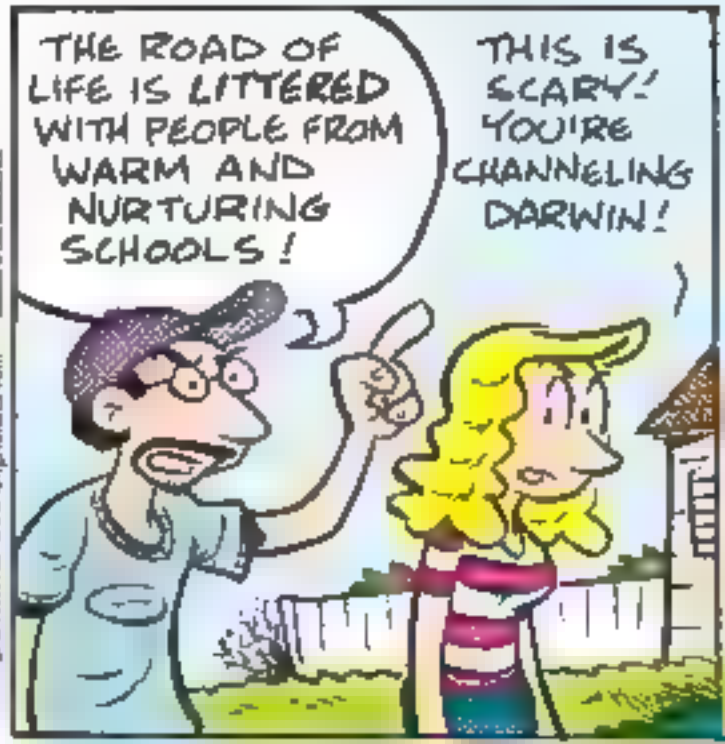
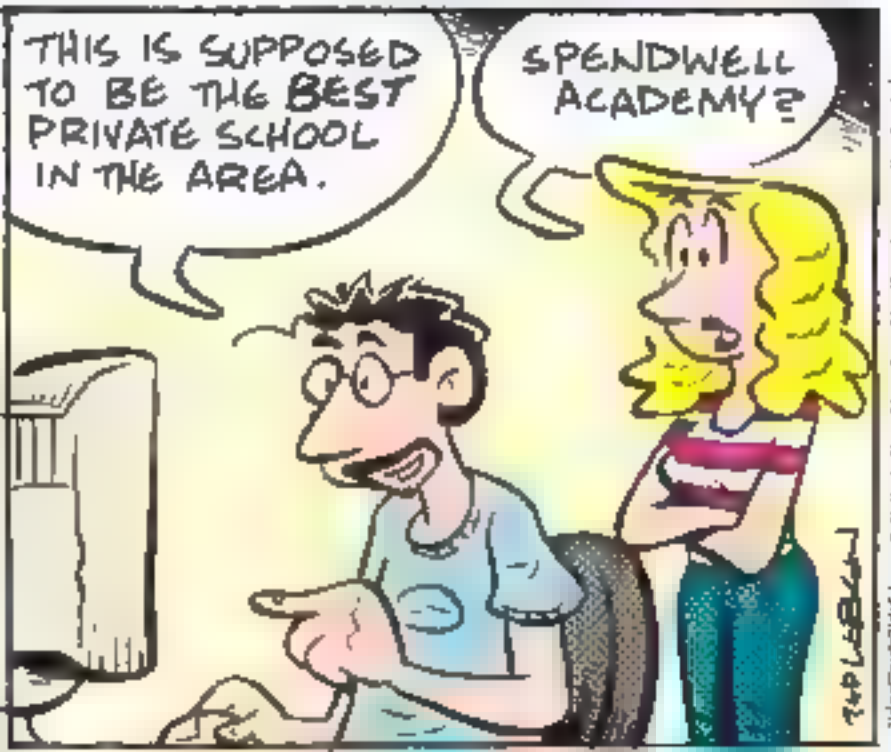



I REALLY THINK WE SHOULD CHECK OUT SOME PRIVATE SCHOOLS.
LOOK, LEN--OUR DISTRICT'S TEST SCORES MAY NOT BE THE VERY BEST...

...BUT I LIKE THE KIDS' SCHOOL! THE ENVIRONMENT IS VERY WARM AND NURTURING.
IT'S A DOG-EAT-DOG WORLD OUT THERE, ABBY!
9.1
THE LABAN


THE ROAD OF LIFE IS LITTERED WITH PEOPLE FROM WARM AND NURTURING SCHOOLS!
THIS IS SCARY! YOU'RE CHANNELING DARWIN!



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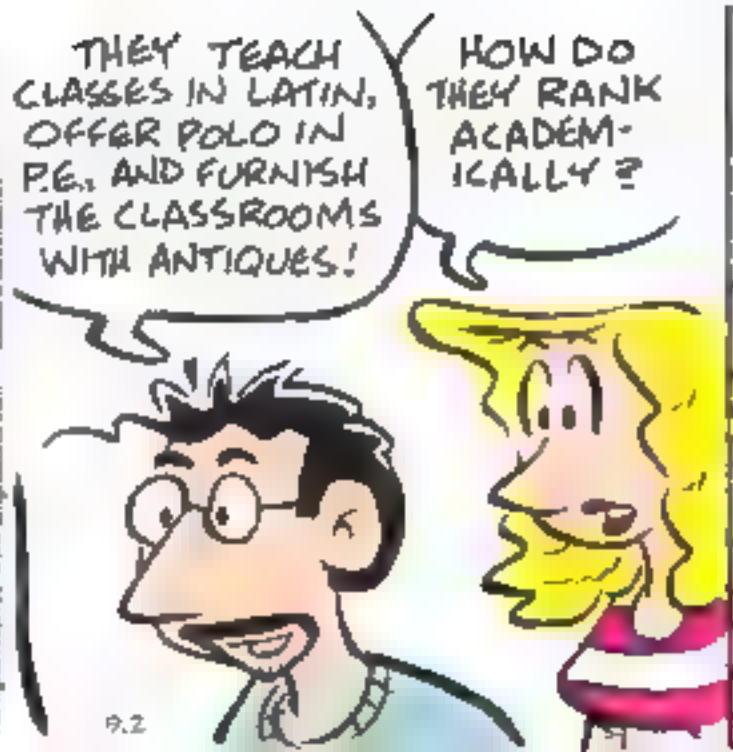
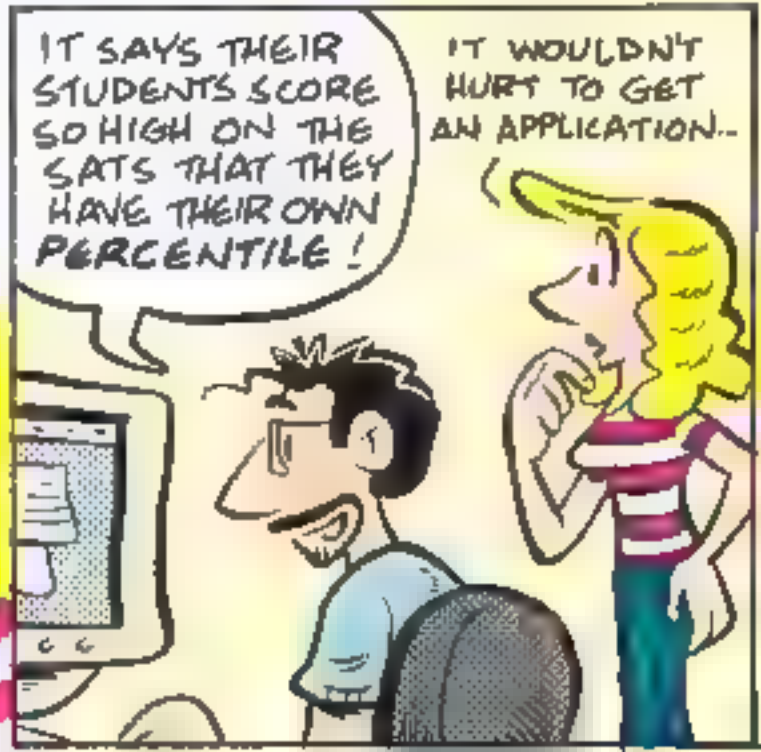
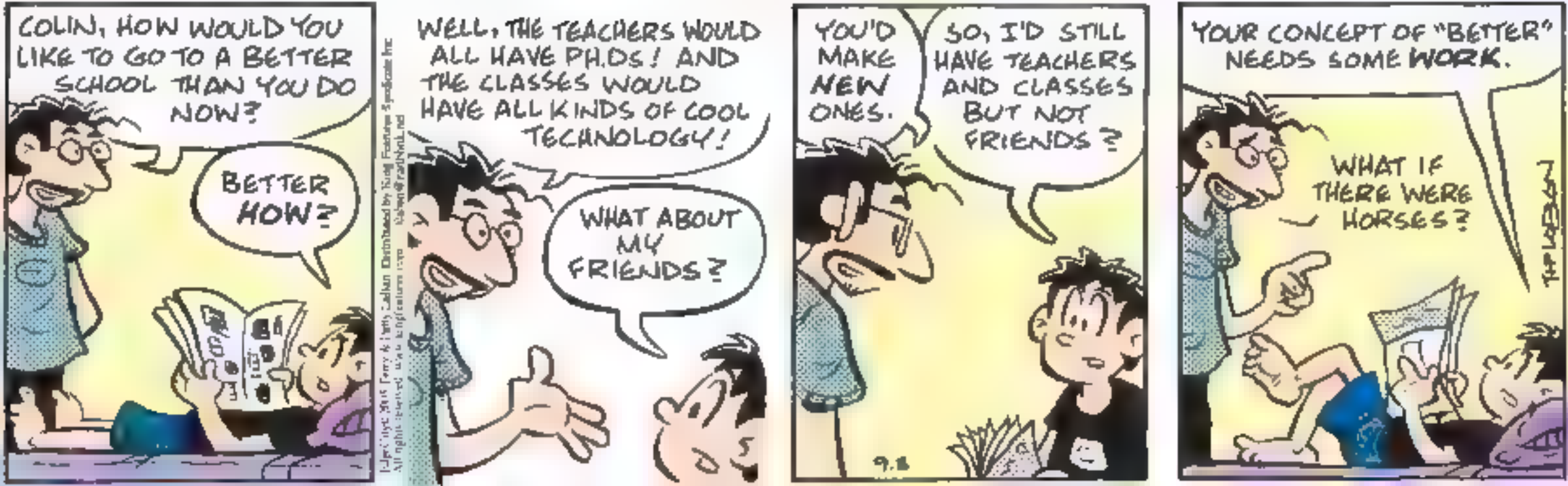
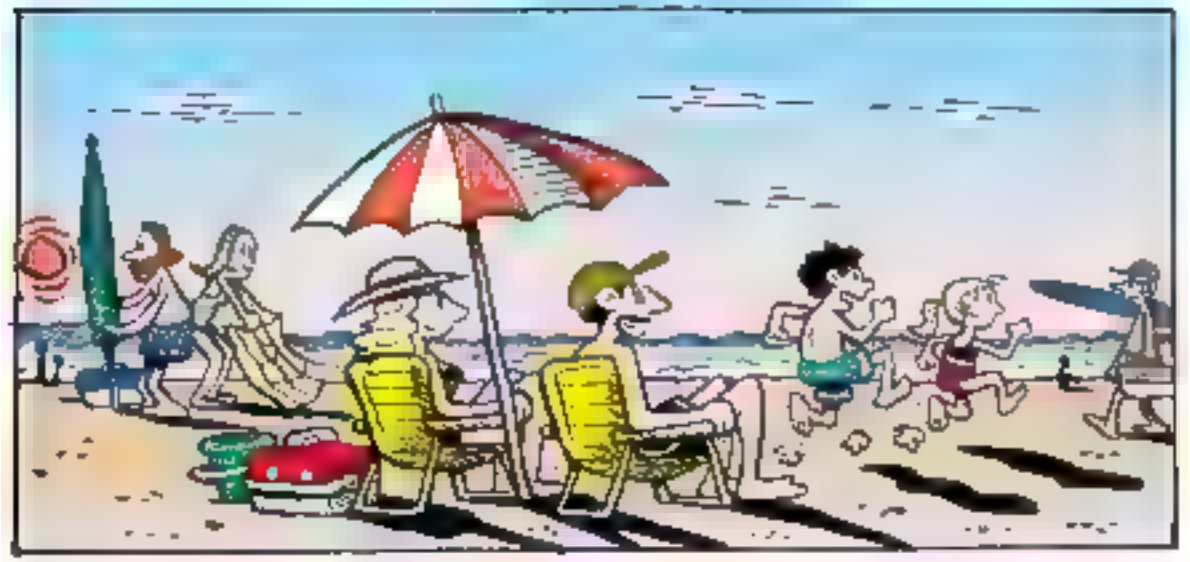
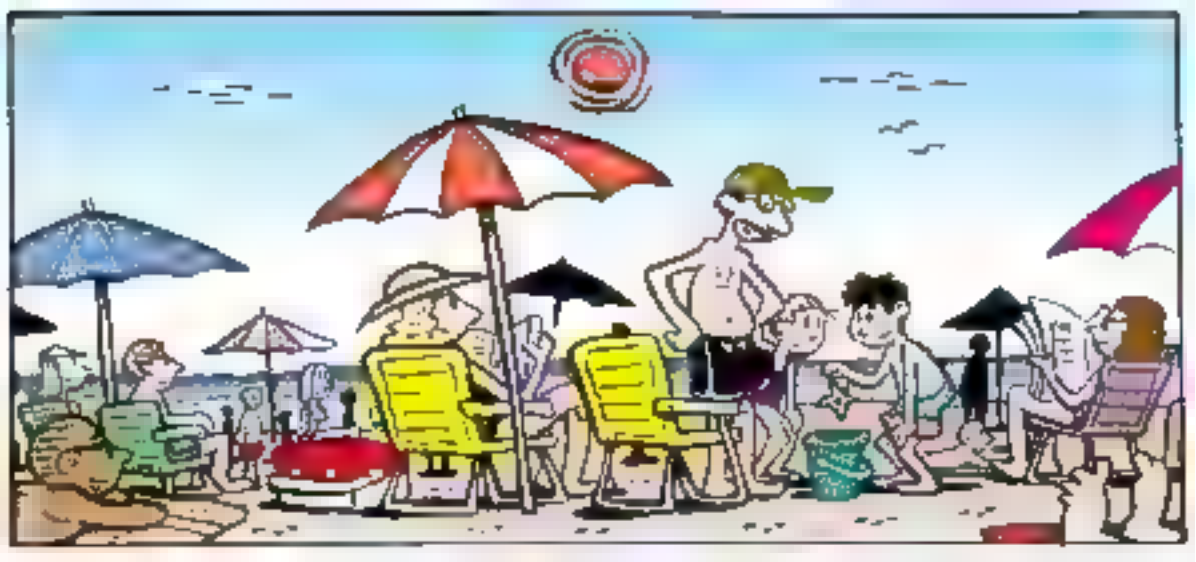
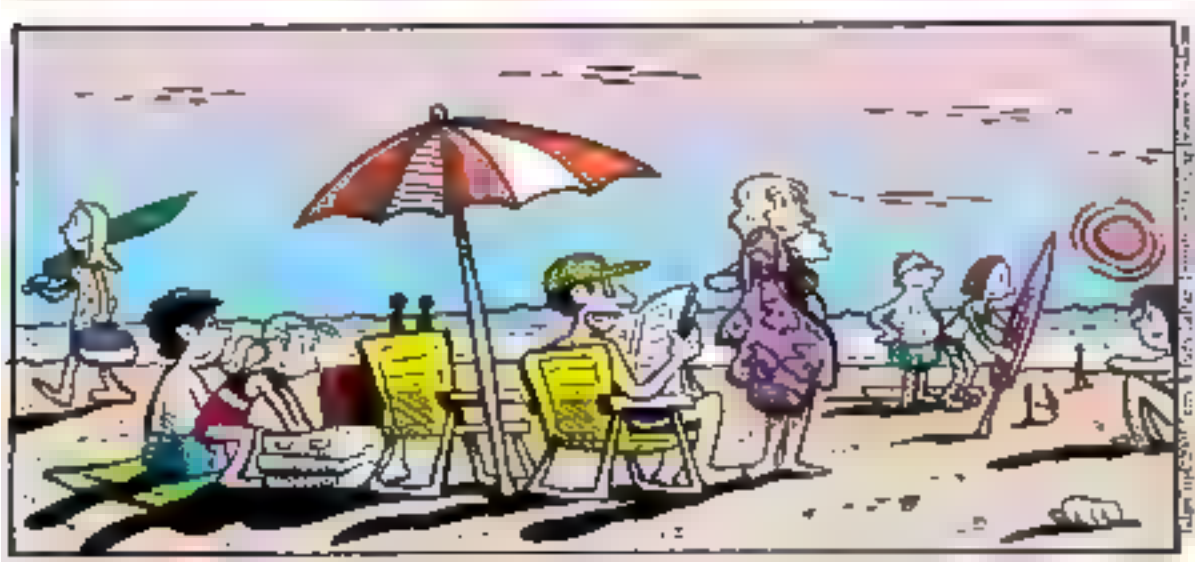


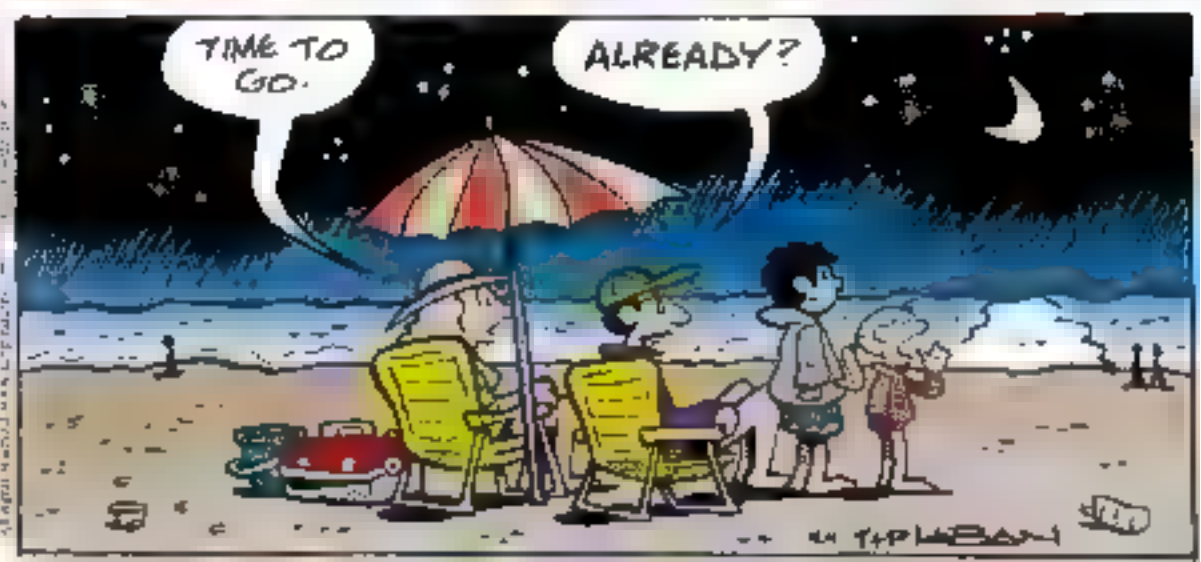


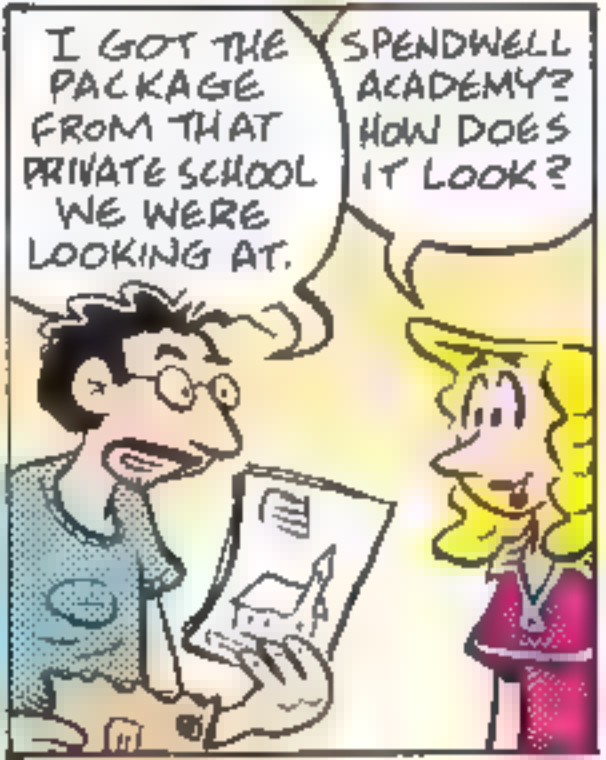

COLIN, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO A BETTER SCHOOL THAN YOU DO NOW?
BETTER HOW?
WELL, THE TEACHERS WOULD ALL HAVE PH.DS! AND THE CLASSES WOULD HAVE ALL KINDS OF COOL TECHNOLOGY!
WHAT ABOUT MY FRIENDS?
YOU'D MAKE NEW ONES.
SO, I'D STILL HAVE TEACHERS AND CLASSES BUT NOT FRIENDS?
YOUR CONCEPT OF "BETTER" NEEDS SOME WORK.
WHAT IF THERE WERE HORSES?

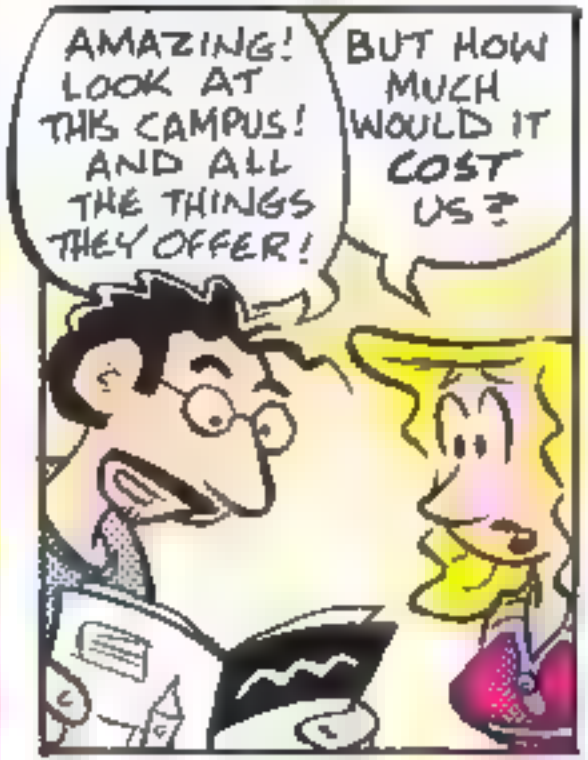







TIME TO GO.
ALREADY?





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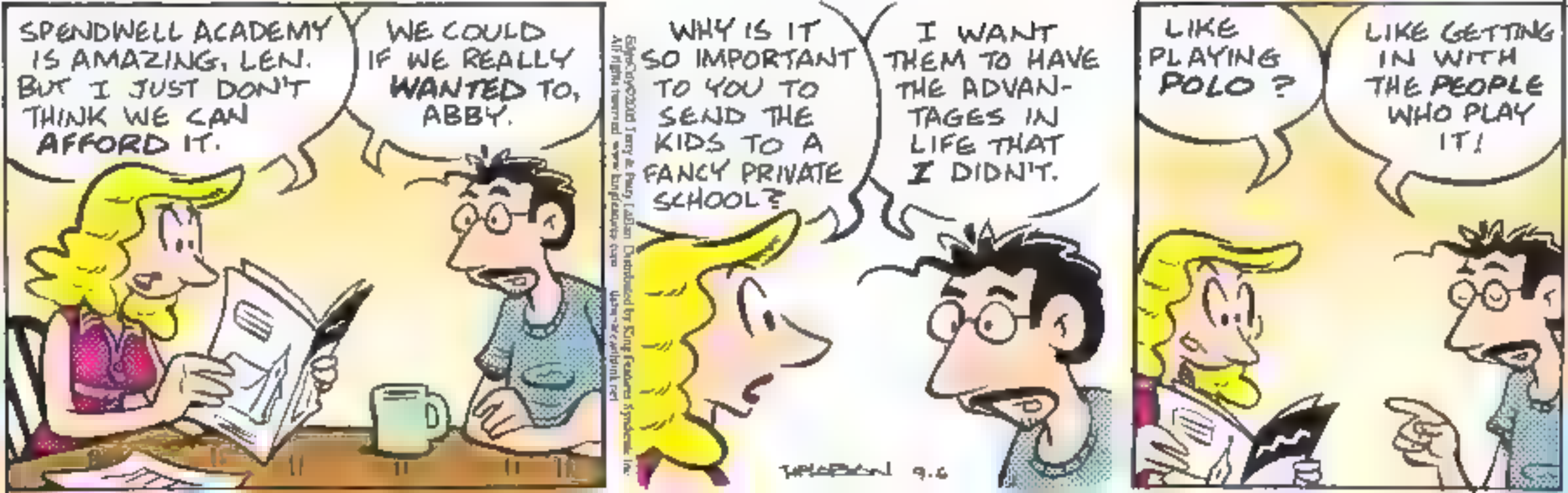

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I STILL DON'T SEE HOW WE'D AFFORD THIS SCHOOL, LEN.
WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY, ABBY! THIS IS ALL ABOUT OUR KIDS' FUTURES!
SPENDWELL ACADEMY
DO WE REALLY NEED SOMETHING THIS FANCY?
WHY NOT? WE'RE JUST AS HIGH-CLASS AS ANYBODY!
I'M NOT SO SURE.
MISTAW AND MISSUS AWDIN, MI'LADY!
COME IN!

THANKS FOR THE TOUR, DR. STERLING. SPENDWELL ACADEMY IS VERY IMPRESSIVE.

YOU WON'T FIND A BETTER SCHOOL ANYWHERE!

I MUST ADMIT- WE'RE A LITTLE CONCERNED ABOUT THE COST.

YOU CAN REDUCE THE FEE A BIT BY OPTING OUT OF SOME PROGRAMS.

FOR INSTANCE, NOT EVERY CHILD NEEDS A PERSONAL CHEF!

DO THE KIDS WHO DON'T HAVE ONE GET TEASED?

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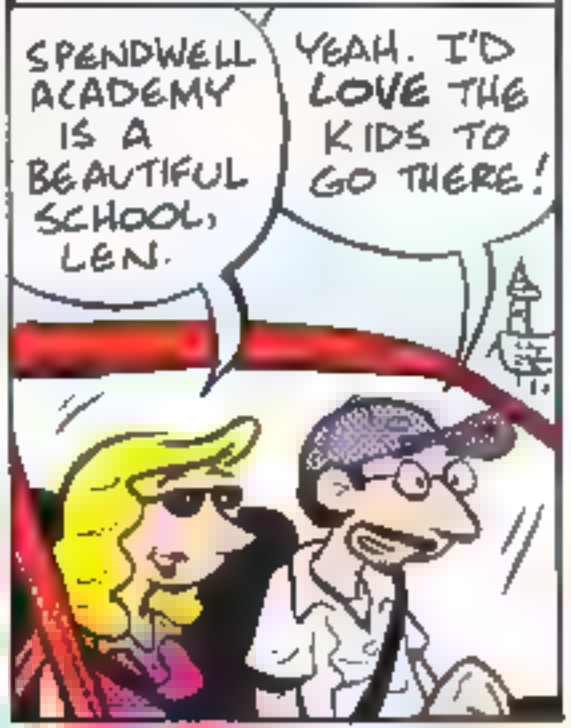
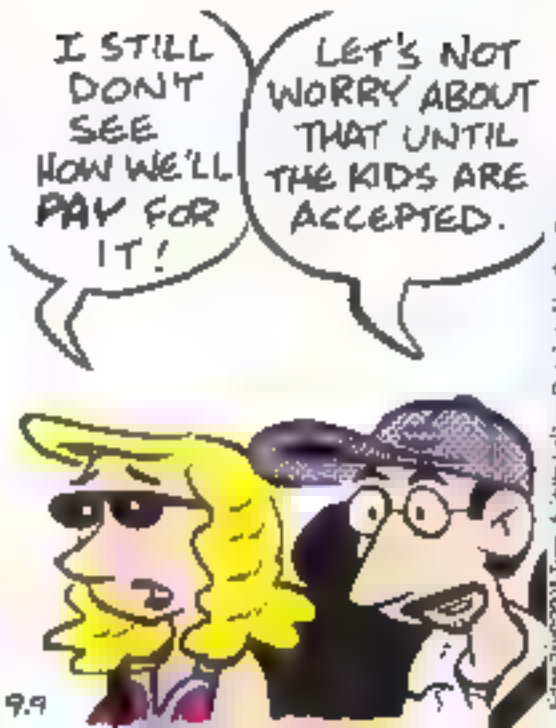
9-8

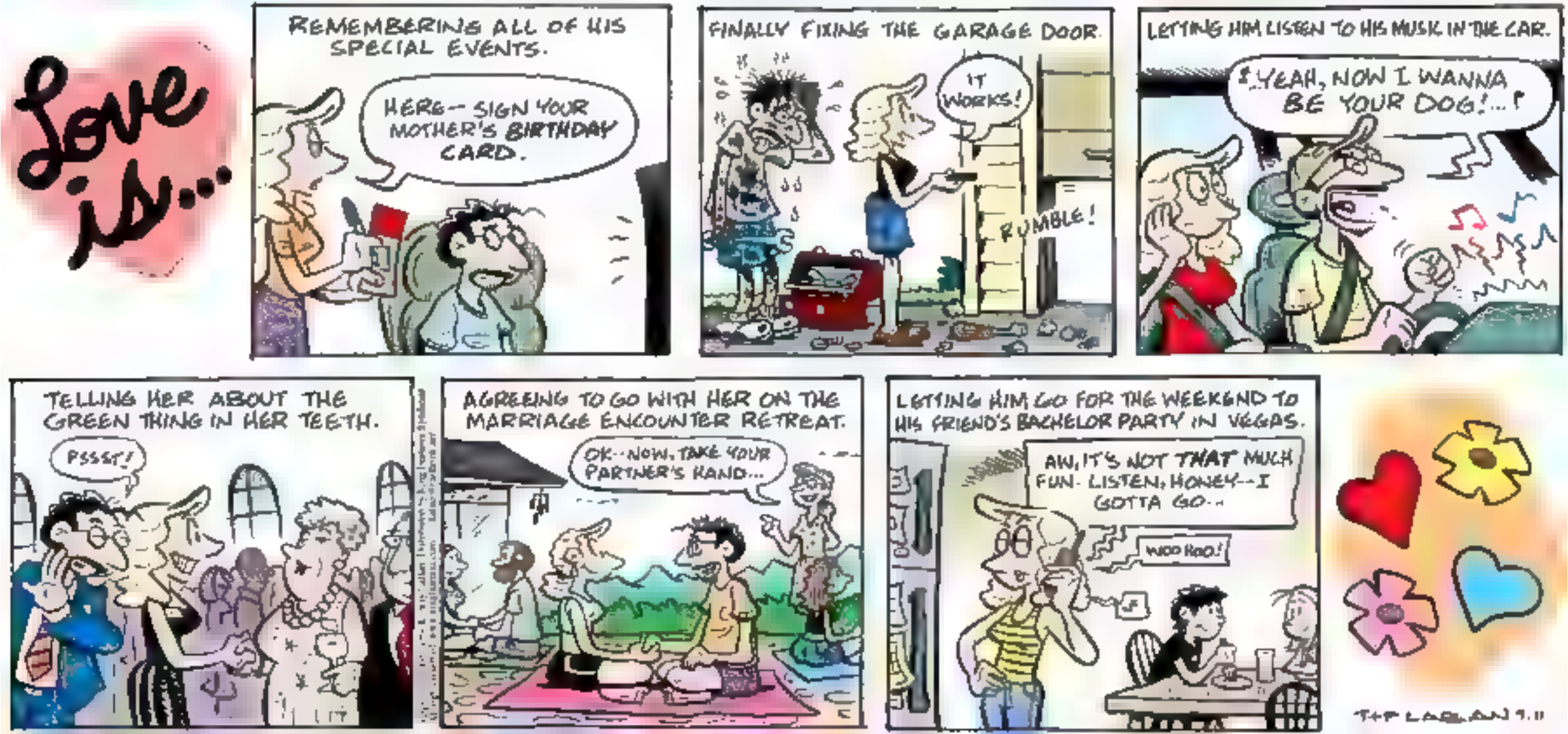

SPENDWELL ACADEMY IS A BEAUTIFUL SCHOOL, LEN.
YEAH. I'D LOVE THE KIDS TO GO THERE!

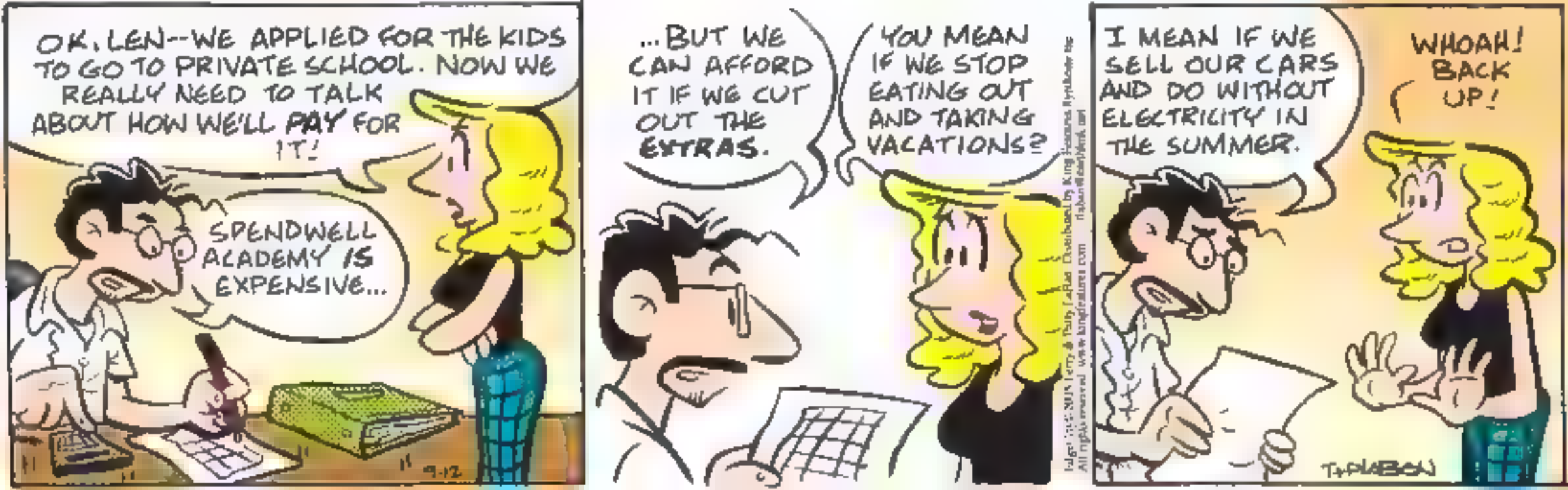

I STILL DON'T SEE HOW WE'LL PAY FOR IT!
LET'S NOT WORRY ABOUT THAT UNTIL THE KIDS ARE ACCEPTED.
9.9

DO YOU THINK THEY MIGHT NOT BE?
WELL, THEY SHOULD DEFINITELY GO TO THEIR INTERVIEWS PREPARED!
TP LABAN

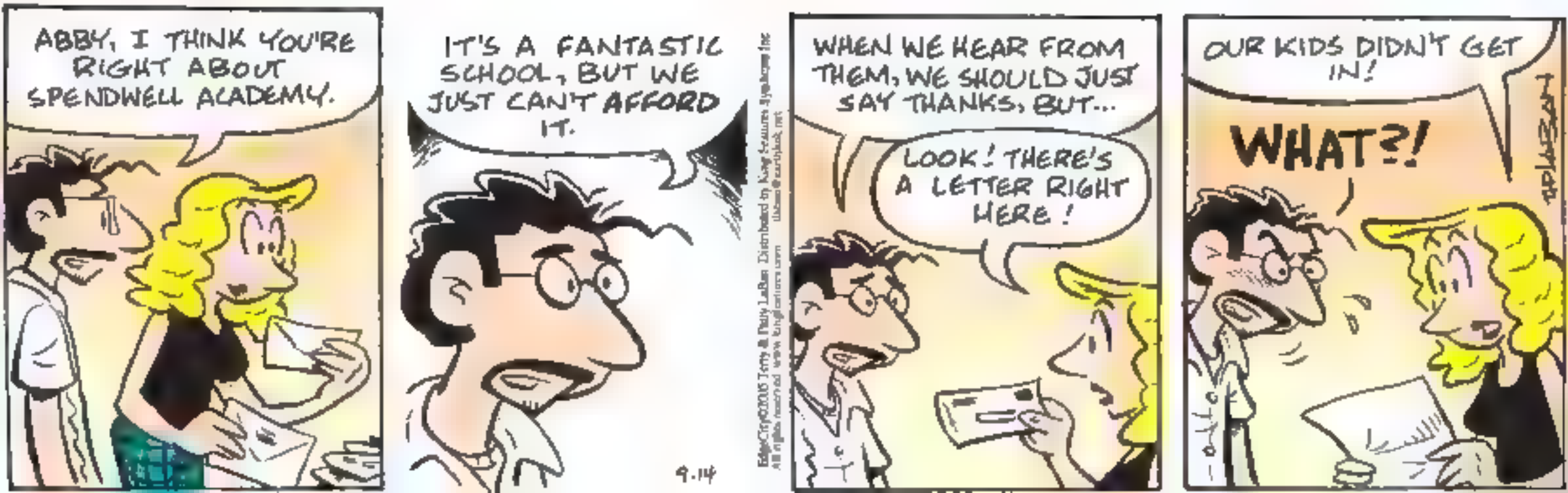
WE DON'T EVEN WANNA GO TO THIS STUPID SCHOOL!
JUST REPEAT-- "THE RAIN IN SPAIN..."

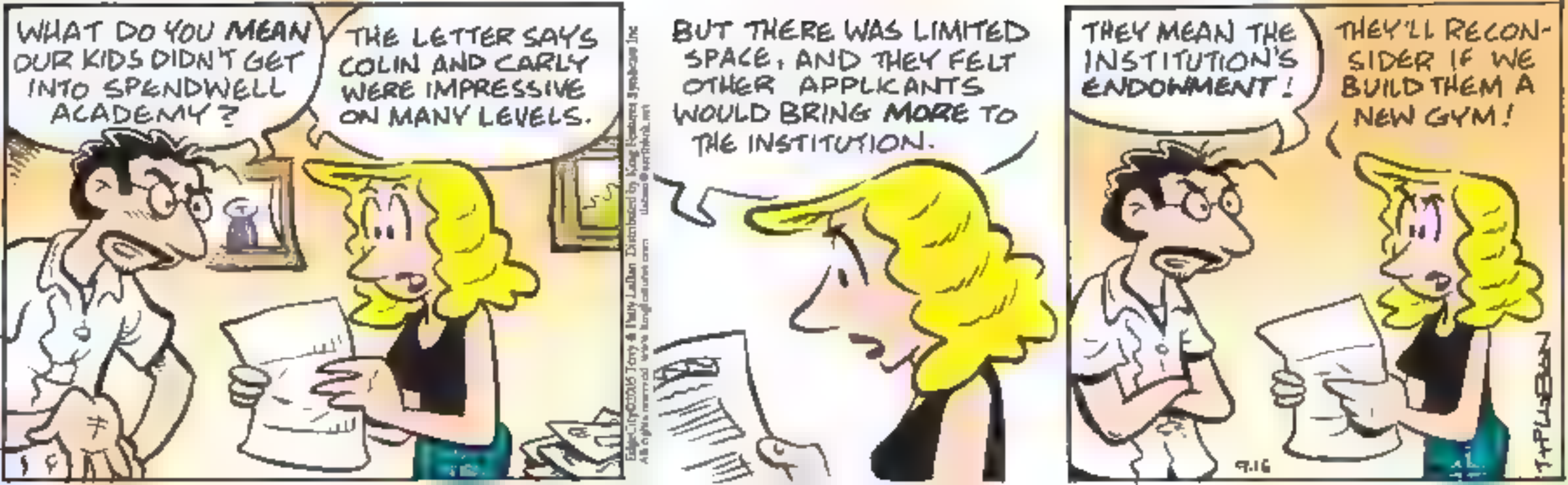
DINER
MY KIDS JUST INTERVIEWED AT A FANCY PRIVATE SCHOOL.
NO KIDDING.
IT'D BE GREAT IF THEY GOT IN. I'M JUST A LITTLE NERVOUS ABOUT HOW WE'LL PAY FOR IT.
IT'LL BE A STRETCH, HUH?
9.10
YEAH... LISTEN, I'LL MEET YOU BACK AT THE OFFICE, OK?
BIO CARE INC.
WE PAY $ $ $ $ FOR BLOOD PLASMA

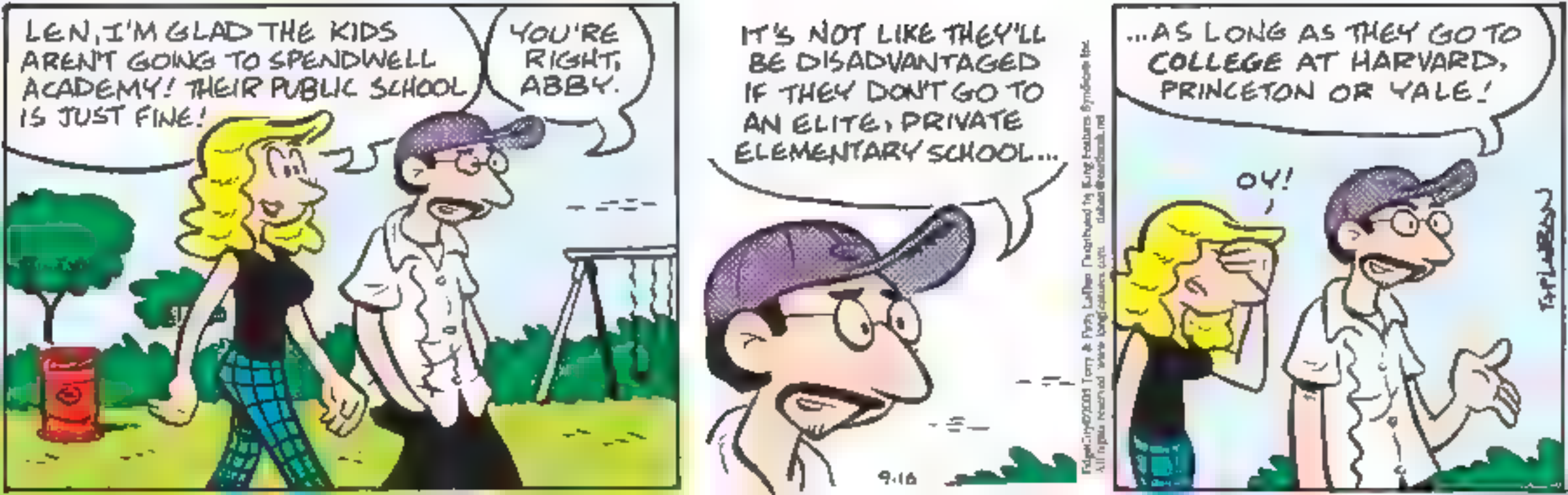

Love is...
REMEMBERING ALL OF HIS SPECIAL EVENTS.
HERE-- SIGN YOUR MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY CARD.
FINALLY FIXING THE GARAGE DOOR.
IT WORKS!
RUMBLE!
LETTING HIM LISTEN TO HIS MUSIC IN THE CAR.
YEAH, NOW I WANNA BE YOUR DOG!...
TELLING HER ABOUT THE GREEN THING IN HER TEETH.
PSSST!
AGREEING TO GO WITH HER ON THE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER RETREAT.
OK--NOW, TAKE YOUR PARTNER'S HAND...
LETTING HIM GO FOR THE WEEKEND TO HIS FRIEND'S BACHELOR PARTY IN VEGAS.
AW, IT'S NOT THAT MUCH FUN. LISTEN, HONEY--I GOTTA GO...
WOO HOO!


OK, LEN--WE APPLIED FOR THE KIDS TO GO TO PRIVATE SCHOOL. NOW WE REALLY NEED TO TALK ABOUT HOW WE'LL PAY FOR IT!
SPENDWELL ACADEMY IS EXPENSIVE...
9-12
...BUT WE CAN AFFORD IT IF WE CUT OUT THE EXTRAS.
YOU MEAN IF WE STOP EATING OUT AND TAKING VACATIONS?
I MEAN IF WE SELL OUR CARS AND DO WITHOUT ELECTRICITY IN THE SUMMER.
WHOAH! BACK UP!
TAPIABON

LEN, SPENDWELL ACADEMY WILL STRAIN OUR FINANCES TO THE BREAKING POINT!
I STILL SAY OUR KIDS ARE WORTH THE SACRIFICE.
ARE YOU REALLY READY TO GIVE UP OUR WHOLE LIFESTYL JUST SO THEY CAN GO TO A FANCY PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?
:SIGH!: I DONT KNOW. MAYBE NOT.
DOES THAT MAKE ME A BAD DAD?
NO-JUST A RATIONAL ONE!
9-12


ABBY, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT SPENDWELL ACADEMY.
IT'S A FANTASTIC SCHOOL, BUT WE JUST CAN'T AFFORD IT.
9-14
WHEN WE HEAR FROM THEM, WE SHOULD JUST SAY THANKS, BUT...
LOOK! THERE'S A LETTER RIGHT HERE!
OUR KIDS DIDN'T GET IN!
WHAT?!

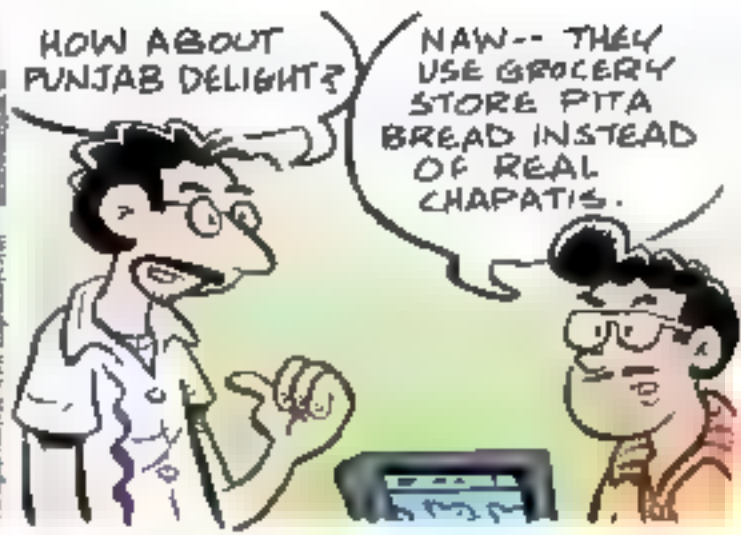

WHAT DO YOU MEAN OUR KIDS DIDN'T GET INTO SPENDWELL ACADEMY?
THE LETTER SAYS COLIN AND CARLY WERE IMPRESSIVE ON MANY LEVELS.
BUT THERE WAS LIMITED SPACE, AND THEY FELT OTHER APPLICANTS WOULD BRING MORE TO THE INSTITUTION.
THEY MEAN THE INSTITUTION'S ENDOWMENT!
THEY'LL RECONSIDER IF WE BUILD THEM A NEW GYM!
9-16


LEN, I'M GLAD THE KIDS AREN'T GOING TO SPENDWELL ACADEMY! THEIR PUBLIC SCHOOL IS JUST FINE!
YOU'RE RIGHT, ABBY.
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'LL BE DISADVANTAGED IF THEY DON'T GO TO AN ELITE, PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
9-16
...AS LONG AS THEY GO TO COLLEGE AT HARVARD, PRINCETON OR YALE!
OY!

AFTER THINKING ABOUT SENDING THE KIDS TO PRIVATE SCHOOL, I APPRECIATE OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL MUCH MORE.
I'VE DECIDED TO DO MORE TO SUPPORT IT, AND MAKE IT EVEN BETTER IF I CAN!
WANNA BUY SOME CANDY?
HECK, FOR THE COST OF A MONTH OF PRIVATE SCHOOL, WE COULD BUY THE WHOLE WAREHOUSE.

HEY, RAJIV-- WANNA GET SOME LUNCH?
SURE, LEN. HOW ABOUT MEXICAN?

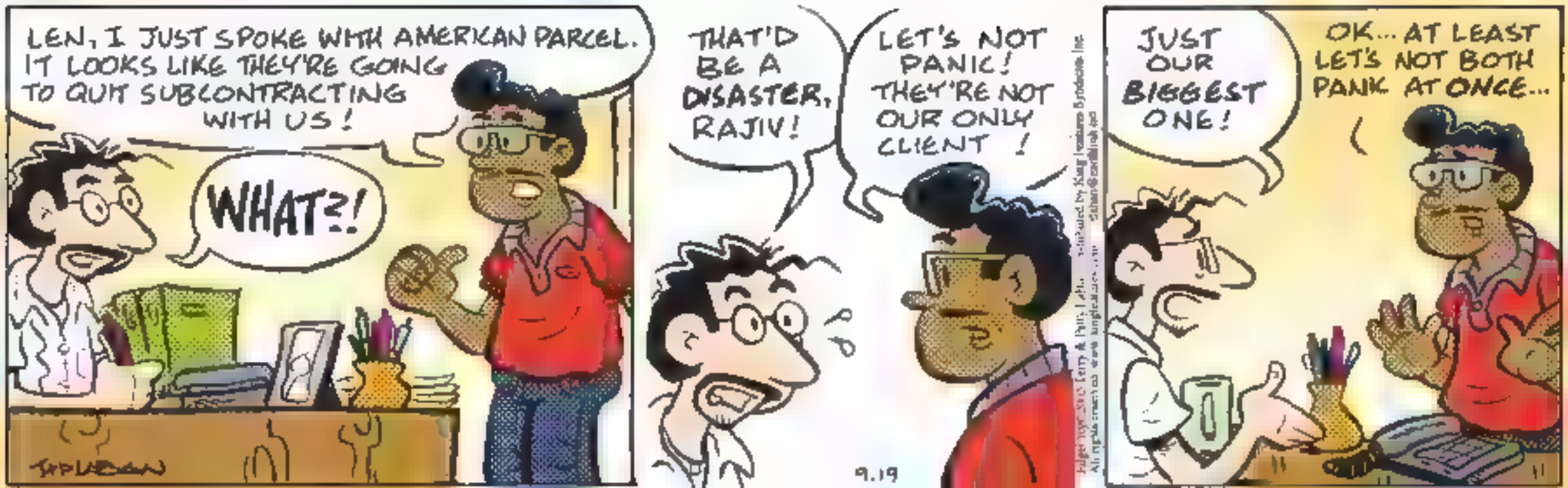
WHY DON'T WE GO FOR INDIAN? I'M SURPRISED YOU NEVER SUGGEST IT.
WE CAN HAVE INDIAN IF YOU WANT.

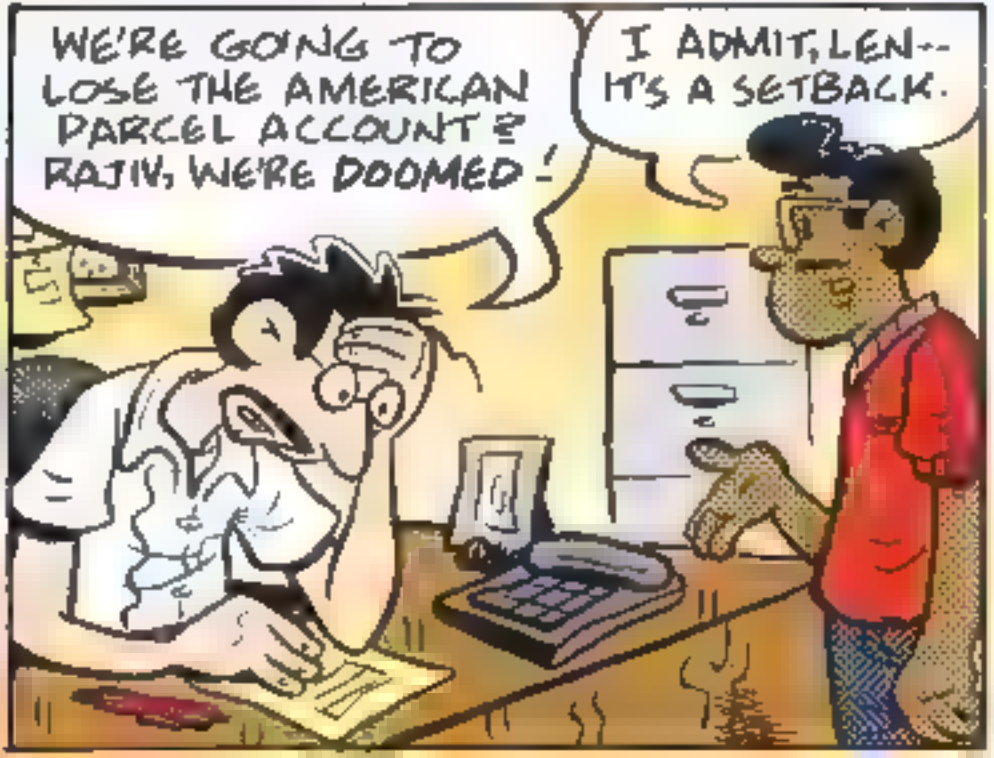

HOW ABOUT PUNJAB DELIGHT?
NAW-- THEY USE GROCERY STORE PITA BREAD INSTEAD OF REAL CHAPATIS.

RAJ TASTIES?
YUCK. THEIR CURRIES ARE WATERY.
STAR OF AGRA?
THEIR FOOD'S TOO BLAND.

WELL, WHAT ABOUT GUPTA'S? I KNOW YOU LIKE THAT PLACE!
YEAH--BUT THE OWNER KIND OF BLACKLISTED ME AFTER I BROKE UP WITH HIS NIECE.

THIS SALSA COULD BE SPICIER.
AW, I THINK IT'S ALL RIGHT.


LEN, I JUST SPOKE WITH AMERICAN PARCEL. IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GOING TO QUIT SUBCONTRACTING WITH US!
WHAT?!
THAT'D BE A DISASTER, RAJIV!
LET'S NOT PANIC! THEY'RE NOT OUR ONLY CLIENT!
JUST OUR BIGGEST ONE!
OK... AT LEAST LET'S NOT BOTH PANIC AT ONCE...
9.19



9.20

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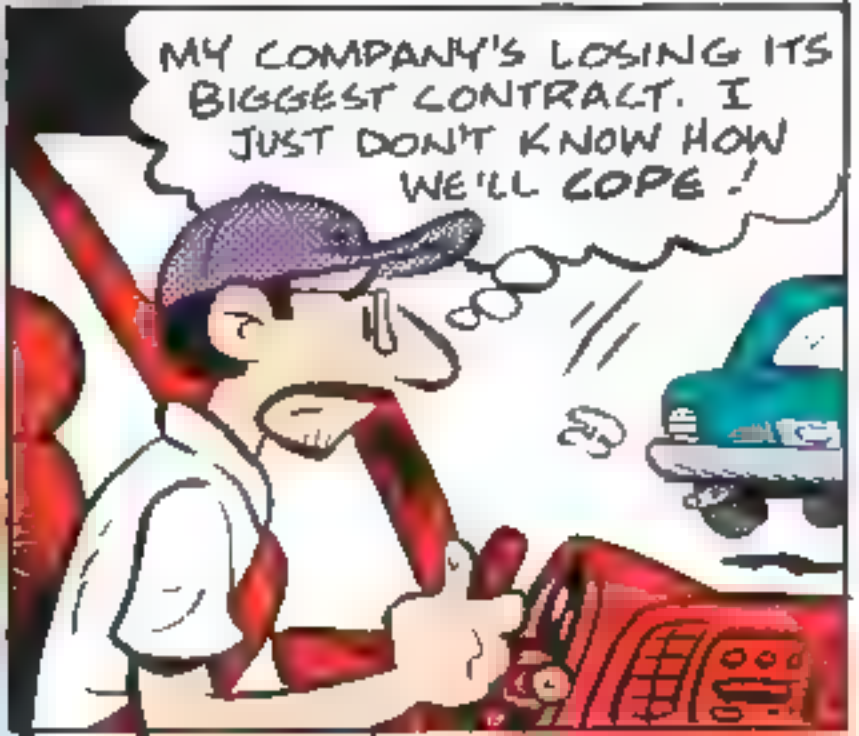
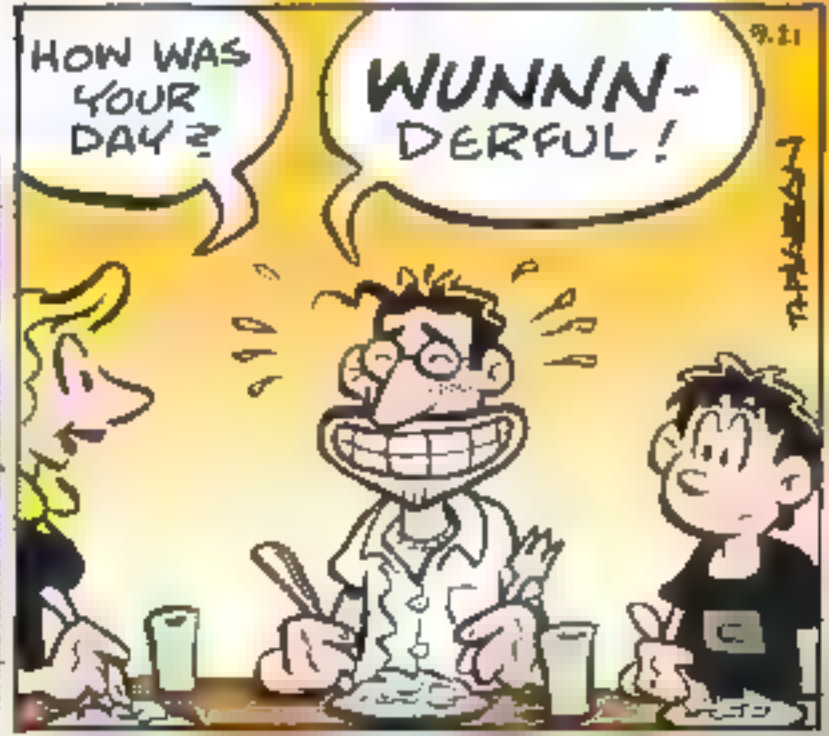
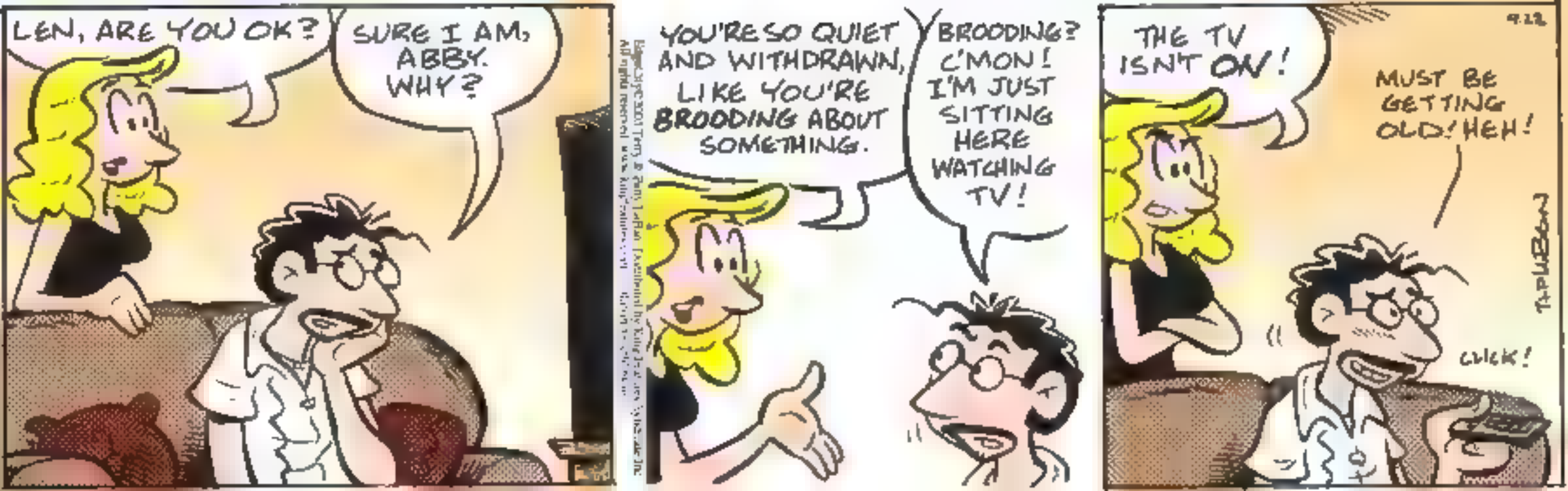
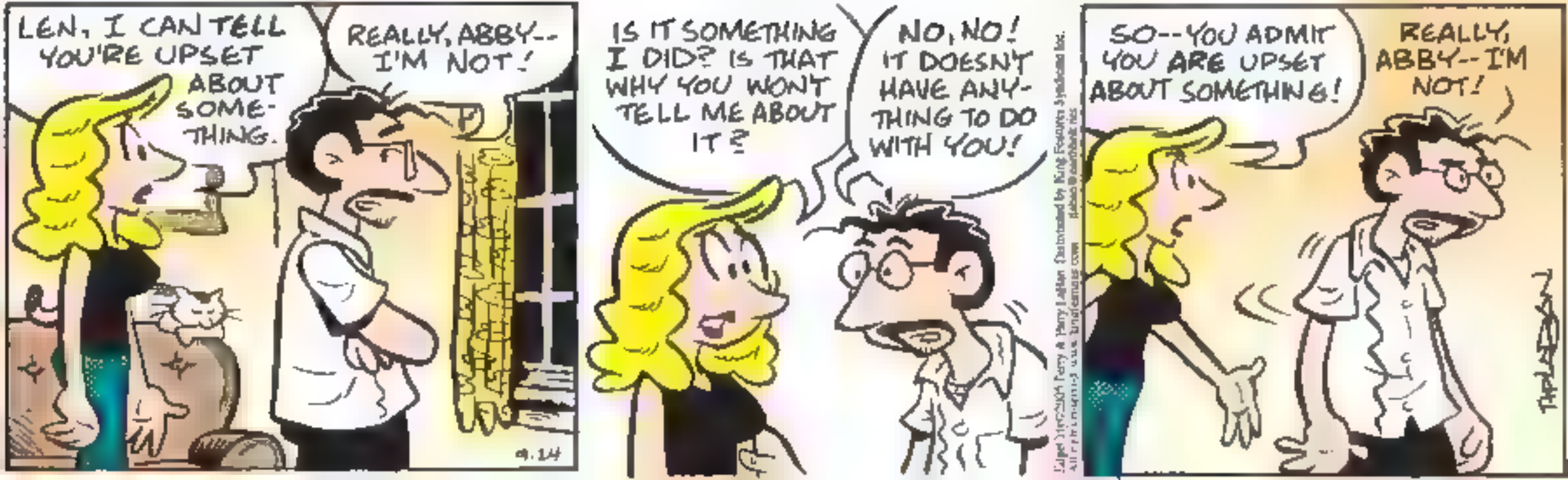

MY COMPANY'S LOSING ITS BIGGEST CONTRACT. I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW WE'LL COPE!

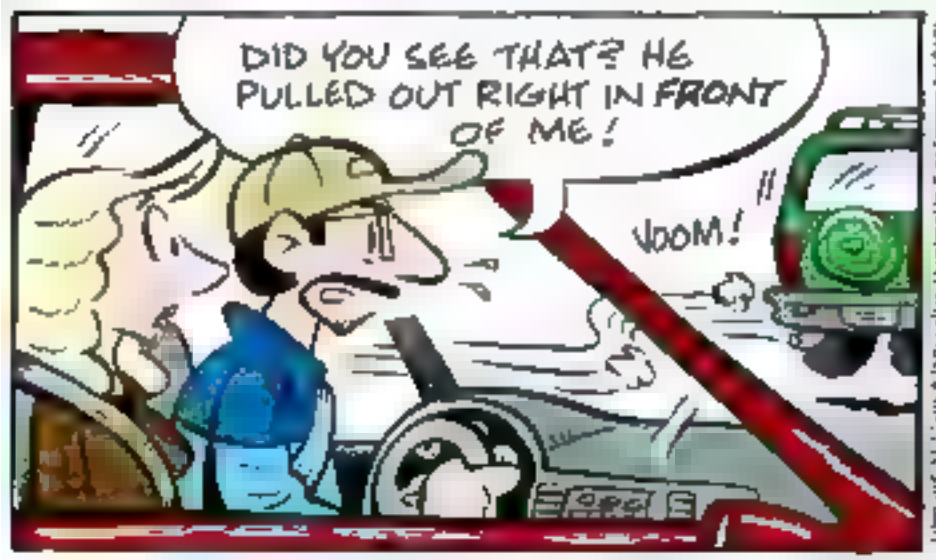
I'D BETTER NOT SAY ANYTHING TO ABBY. SHE'LL WORRY IF SHE THINKS SOMETHING'S WRONG.

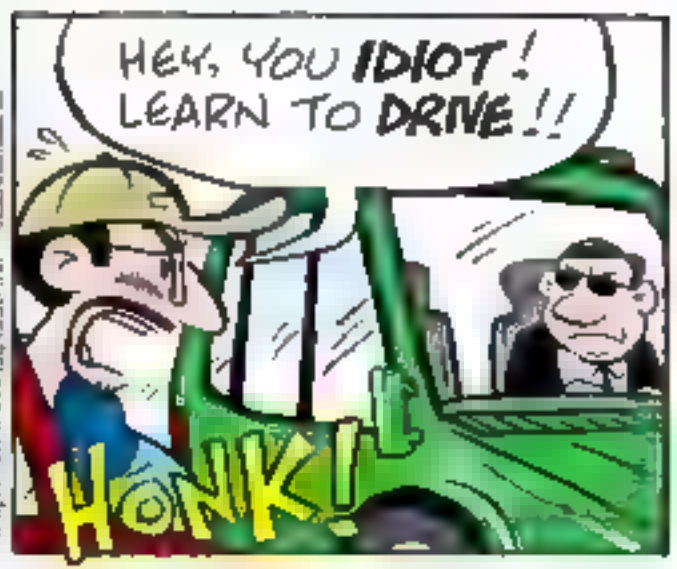

HOW WAS YOUR DAY?
WUNNN-DERFUL!


LEN, ARE YOU OK?
SURE I AM, ABBY. WHY?
YOU'RE SO QUIET AND WITHDRAWN, LIKE YOU'RE BROODING ABOUT SOMETHING.
BROODING? C'MON! I'M JUST SITTING HERE WATCHING TV!
THE TV ISN'T ON!
MUST BE GETTING OLD! HEH!
CLICK!

I KNOW SOMETHING'S BOTHERING LEN--BUT WHEN I ASK HIM, HE SAYS NOTHING'S WRONG!
WHY WON'T HE SAY WHAT'S GOING ON? AS FAR AS I CAN FIGURE, IT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING...
...IT'S ALL ABOUT ME!
SIGH!
9-13

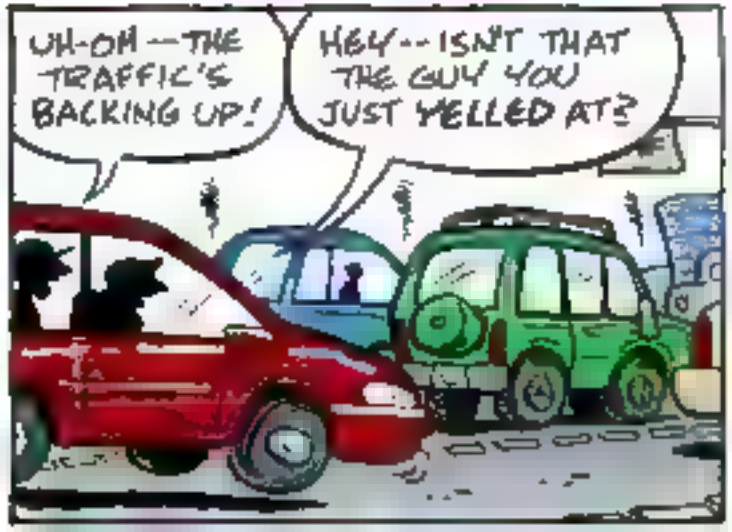

LEN, I CAN TELL YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT SOME-THING.
REALLY, ABBY-- I'M NOT!
9.14
IS IT SOMETHING I DID? IS THAT WHY YOU WON'T TELL ME ABOUT IT?
NO, NO! IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY-THING TO DO WITH YOU!
SO--YOU ADMIT YOU ARE UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING!
REALLY, ABBY--I'M NOT!


DID YOU SEE THAT? HE PULLED OUT RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!
VOOM!

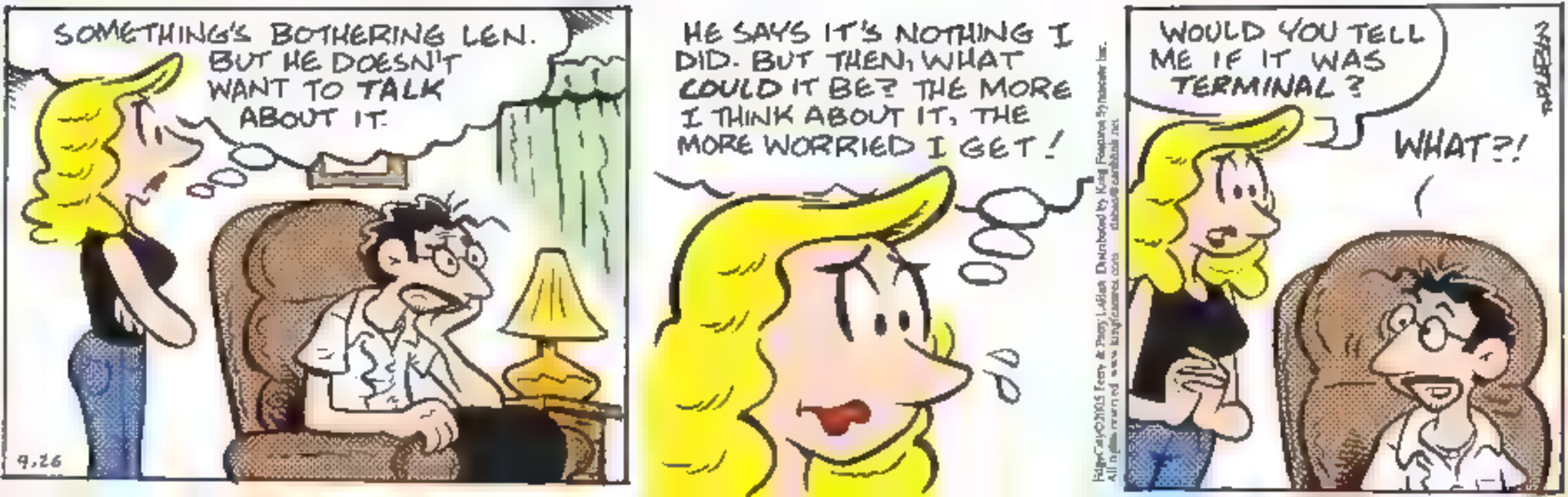

HEY, YOU IDIOT! LEARN TO DRIVE!!
HONK!

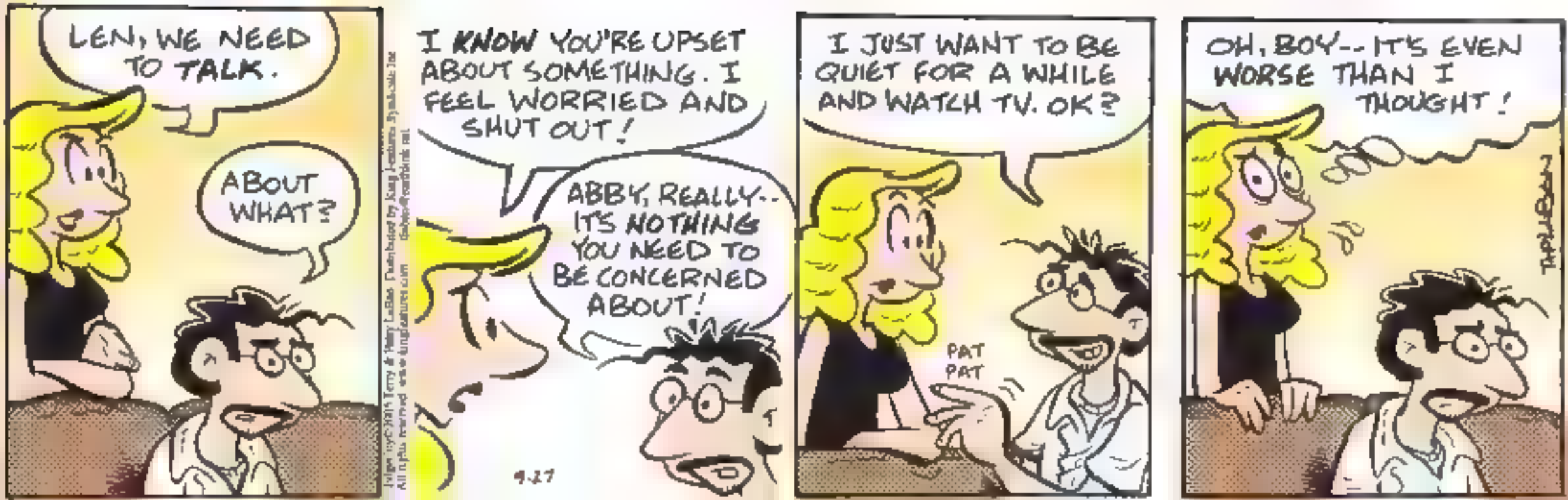
LEN, THAT WAS REALLY DUMB!
WE GOT CUT OFF, ABBY! I HAD TO SAY SOMETHING!

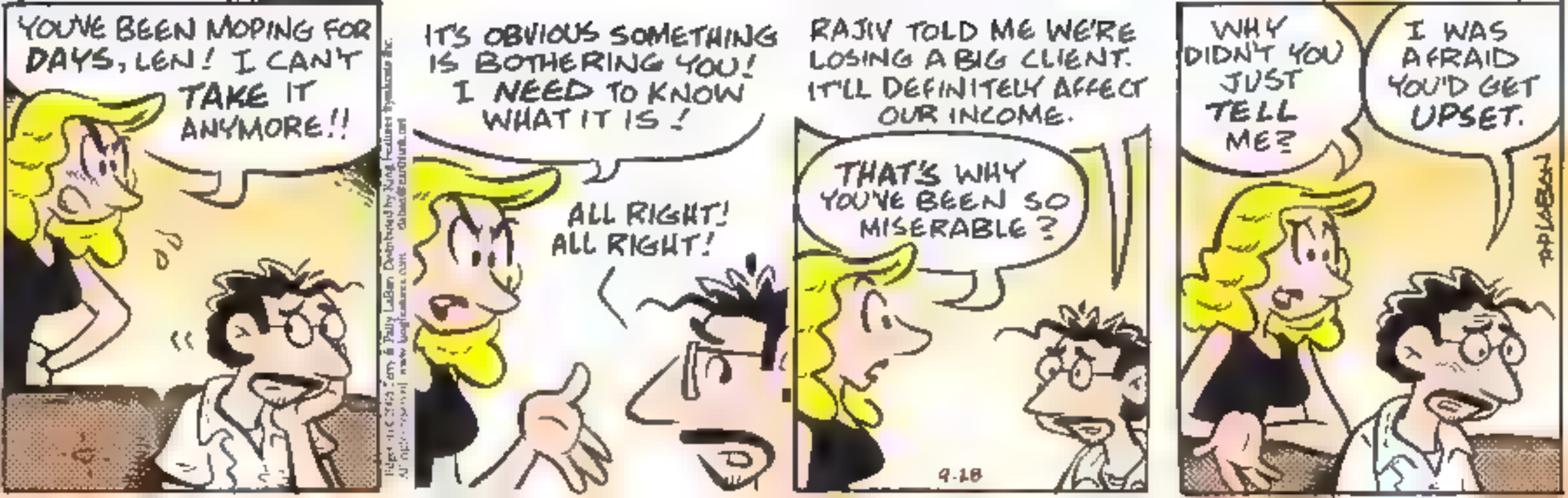
YOU NEVER KNOW HOW SOMEONE'S GOING TO RESPOND!
WE'RE IN CARS GOING 65 MPH! WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

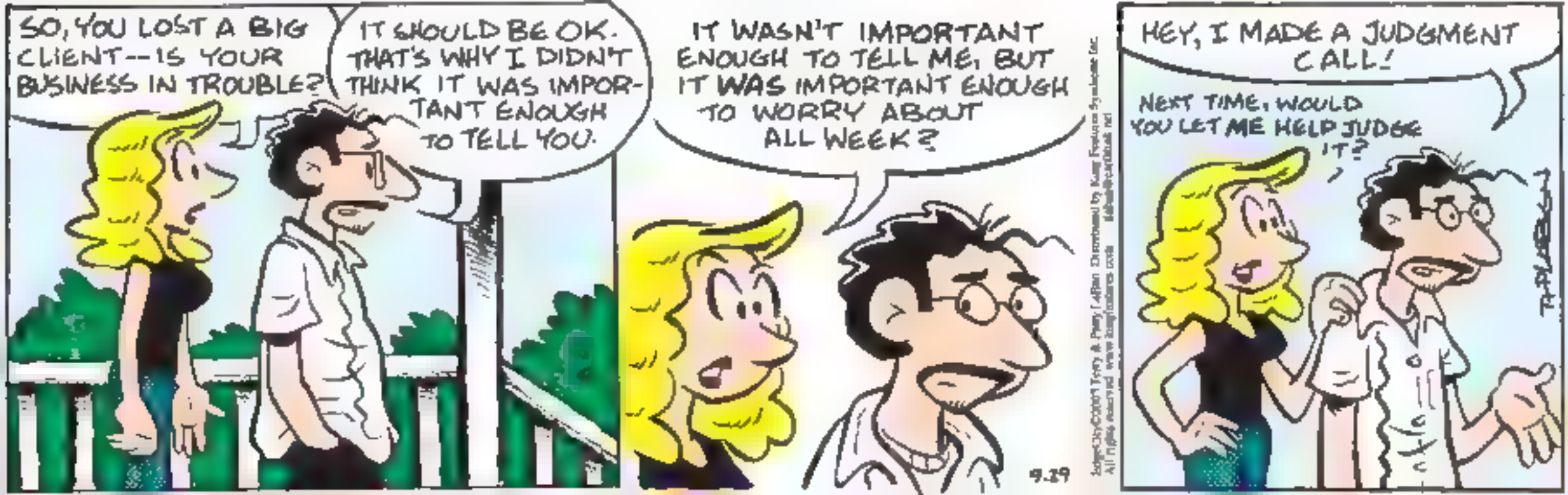

UH-OH -- THE TRAFFIC'S BACKING UP!
HEY -- ISN'T THAT THE GUY YOU JUST YELLED AT?

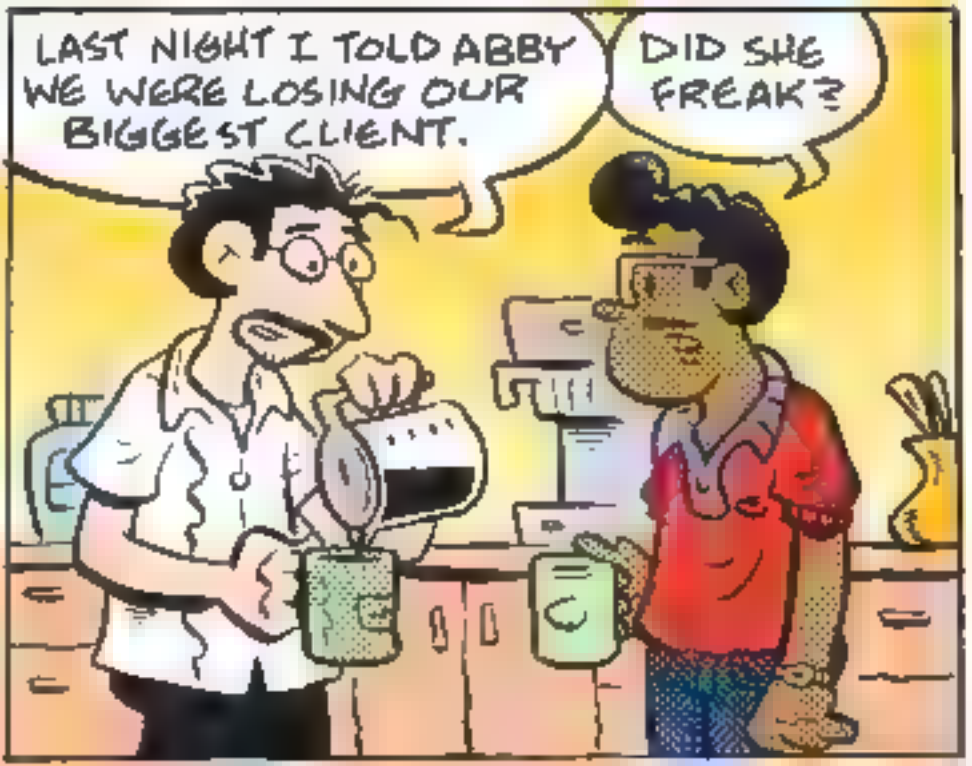
IS HE LOOKING THIS WAY?


SOMETHING'S BOTHERING LEN. BUT HE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
9.26
HE SAYS IT'S NOTHING I DID. BUT THEN, WHAT COULD IT BE? THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE WORRIED I GET!
WOULD YOU TELL ME IF IT WAS TERMINAL?
WHAT?!

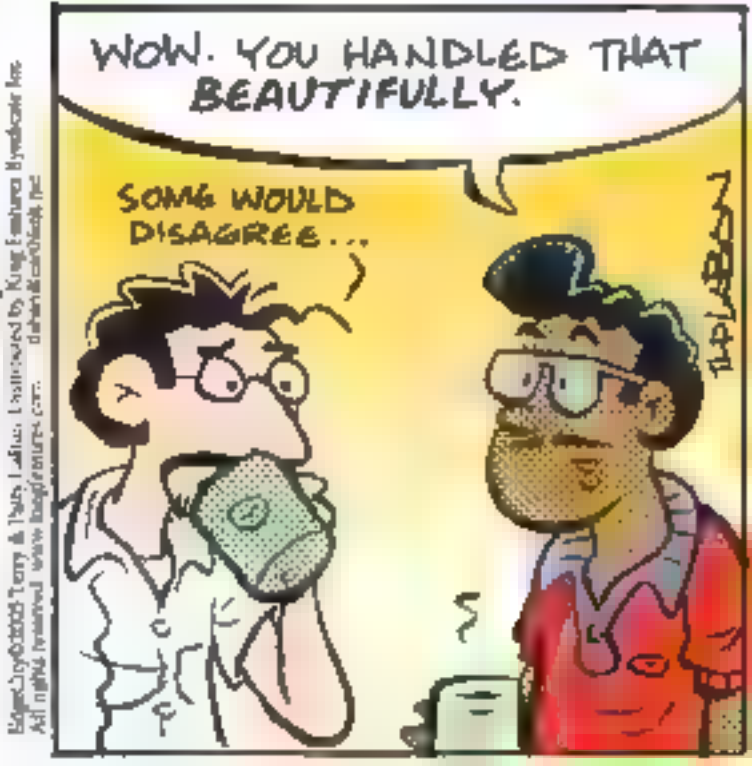

LEN, WE NEED TO TALK.
ABOUT WHAT?
I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING. I FEEL WORRIED AND SHUT OUT!
ABBY, REALLY-- IT'S NOTHING YOU NEED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT!
9-27
I JUST WANT TO BE QUIET FOR A WHILE AND WATCH TV. OK?
PAT PAT
OH, BOY-- IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN I THOUGHT!

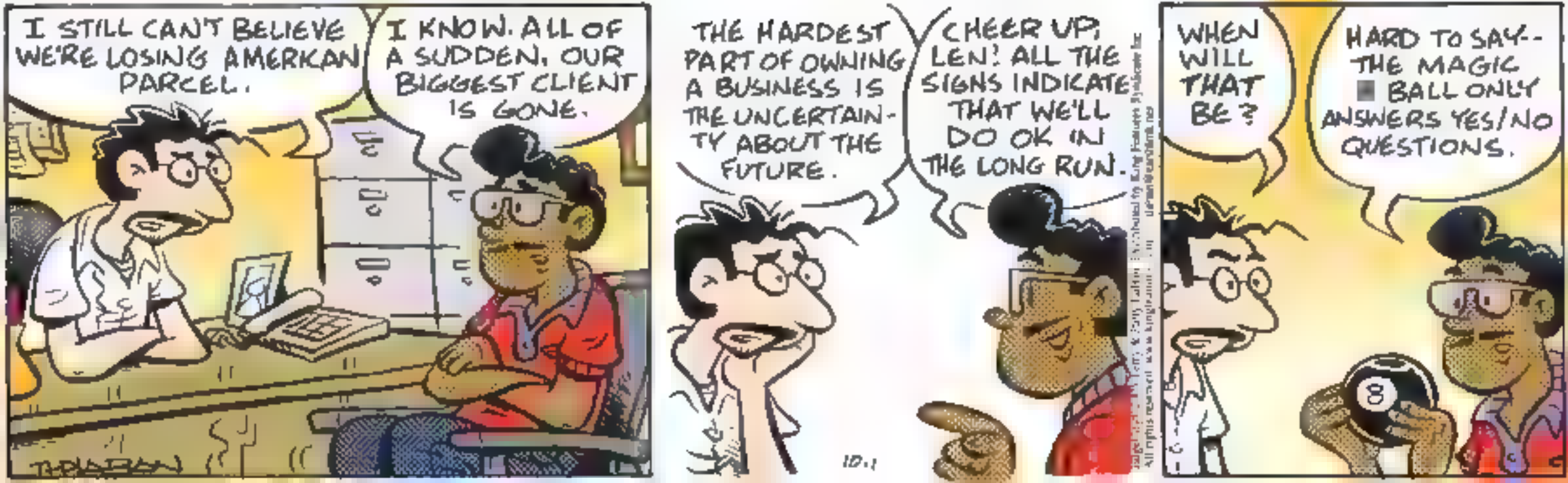

YOU'VE BEEN MOPING FOR DAYS, LEN! I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!!
IT'S OBVIOUS SOMETHING IS BOTHERING YOU! I NEED TO KNOW WHAT IT IS!
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT!
RAJIV TOLD ME WE'RE LOSING A BIG CLIENT. IT'LL DEFINITELY AFFECT OUR INCOME.
THAT'S WHY YOU'VE BEEN SO MISERABLE?
9-18
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME?
I WAS AFRAID YOU'D GET UPSET.
PAT LABRAN

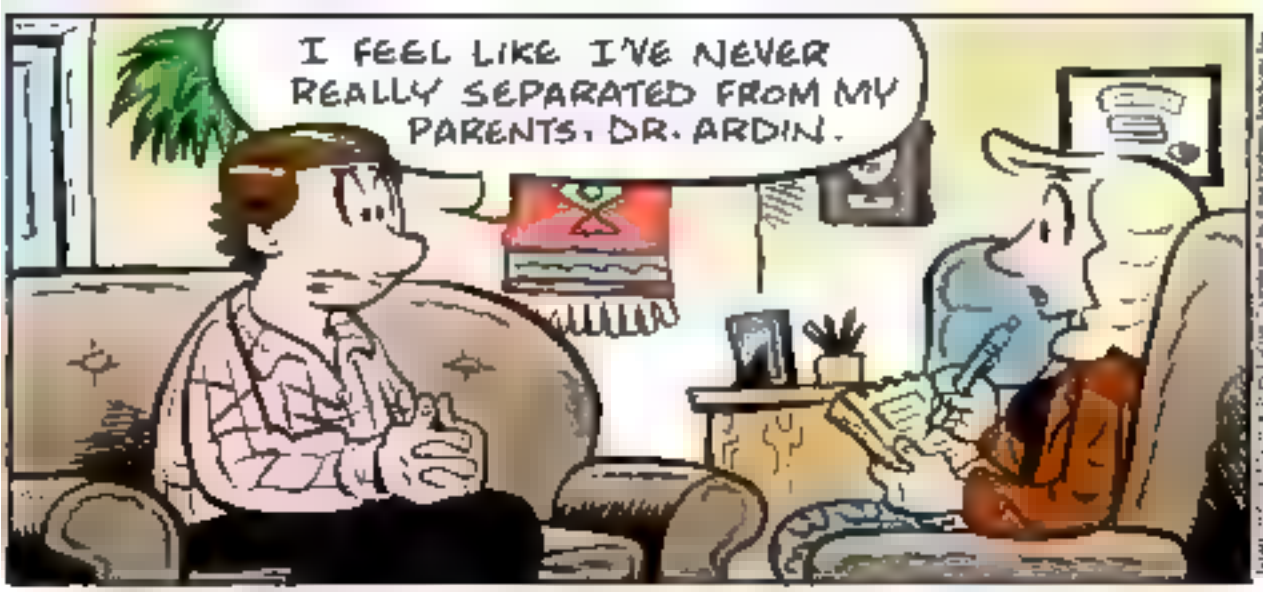

SO, YOU LOST A BIG CLIENT--IS YOUR BUSINESS IN TROUBLE?
IT SHOULD BE OK. THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO TELL YOU.
IT WASN'T IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO TELL ME, BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT ALL WEEK?
9.29
HEY, I MADE A JUDGMENT CALL!
NEXT TIME, WOULD YOU LET ME HELP JUDGE IT?

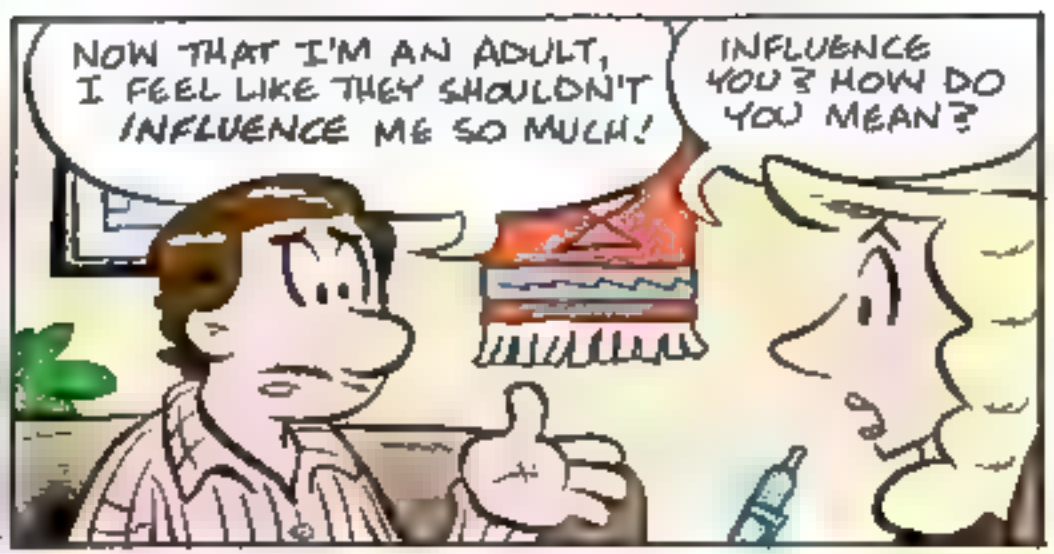

LAST NIGHT I TOLD ABBY WE WERE LOSING OUR BIGGEST CLIENT.
DID SHE FREAK?

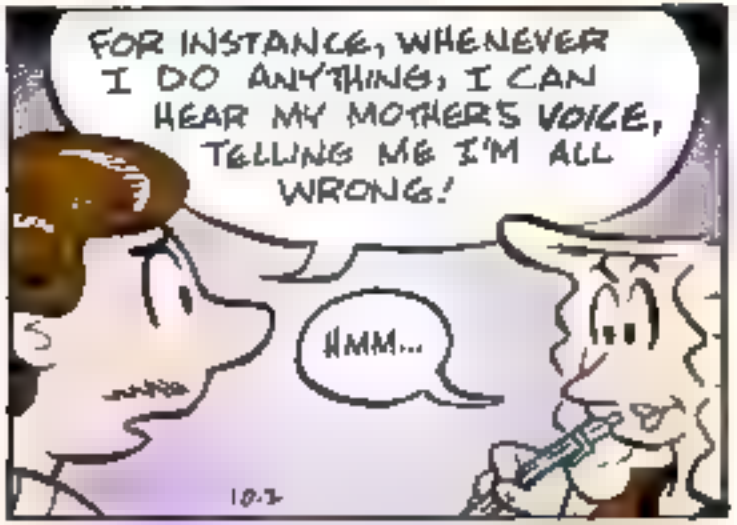
NO, ACTUALLY. SHE'D BEEN SO WORRIED ABOUT WHAT WAS BOTHERING ME THAT WHEN SHE FINALLY FOUND OUT, IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE A BIG DEAL.
9-30

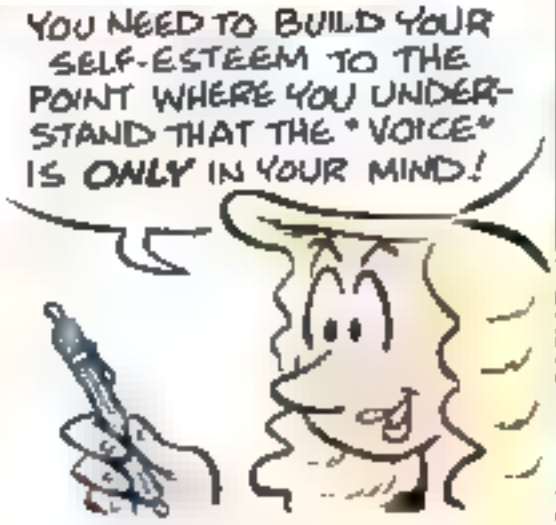

WOW. YOU HANDLED THAT BEAUTIFULLY.
SOMG WOULD DISAGREE...

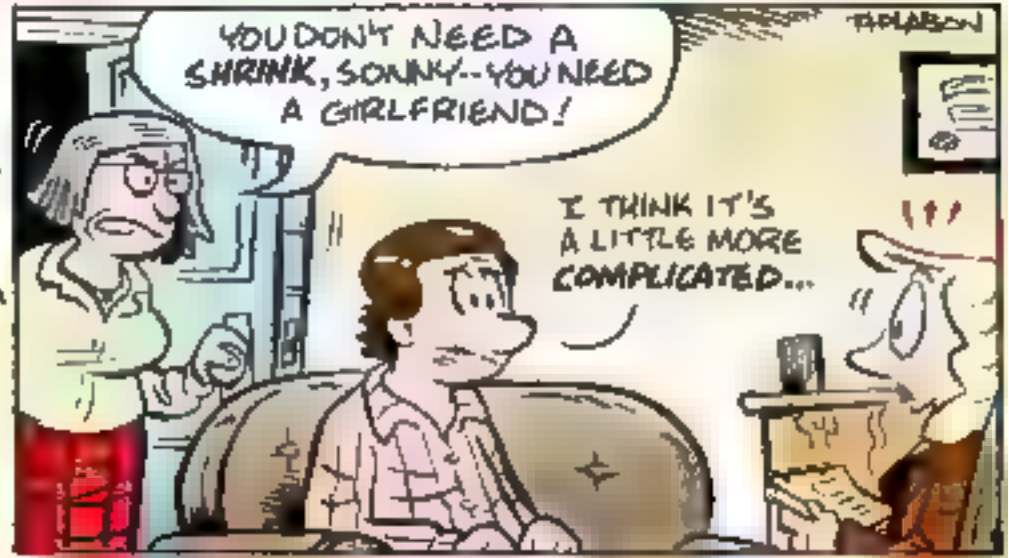

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE LOSING AMERKAN PARCEL.
I KNOW. ALL OF A SUDDEN, OUR BIGGEST CLIENT IS GONE.
THE HARDEST PART OF OWNING A BUSINESS IS THE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE.
CHEER UP, LEN! ALL THE SIGNS INDICATE THAT WE'LL DO OK IN THE LONG RUN.
WHEN WILL THAT BE?
HARD TO SAY-- THE MAGIC BALL ONLY ANSWERS YES/NO QUESTIONS.
8

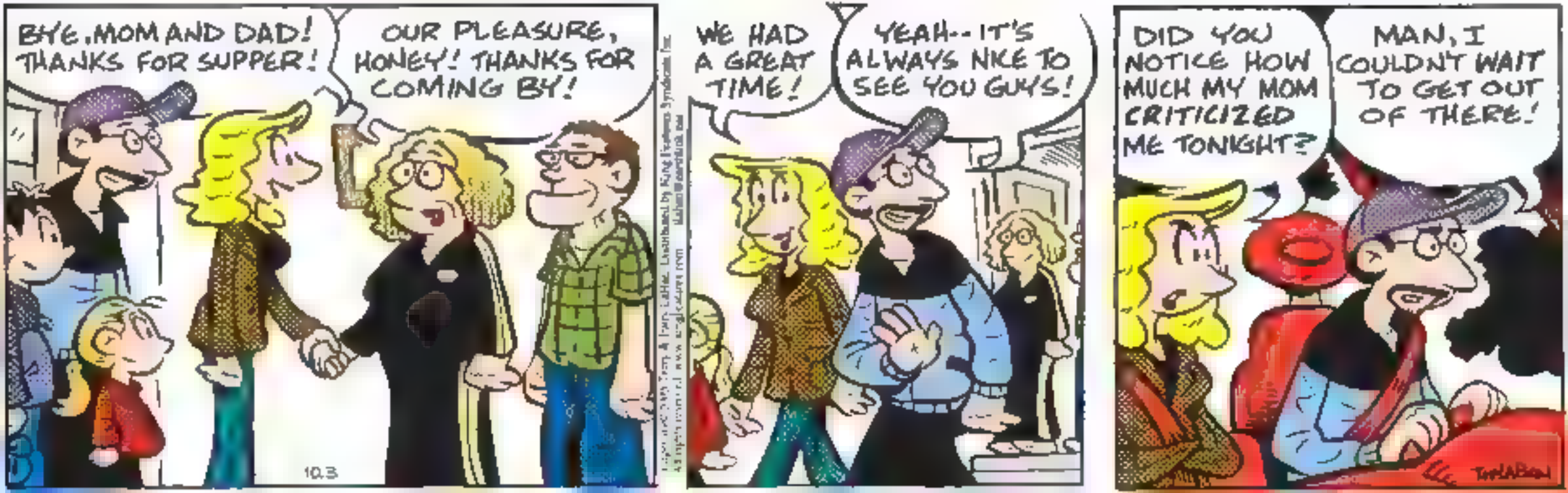

I FEEL LIKE I'VE NEVER REALLY SEPARATED FROM MY PARENTS, DR. ARDIN.

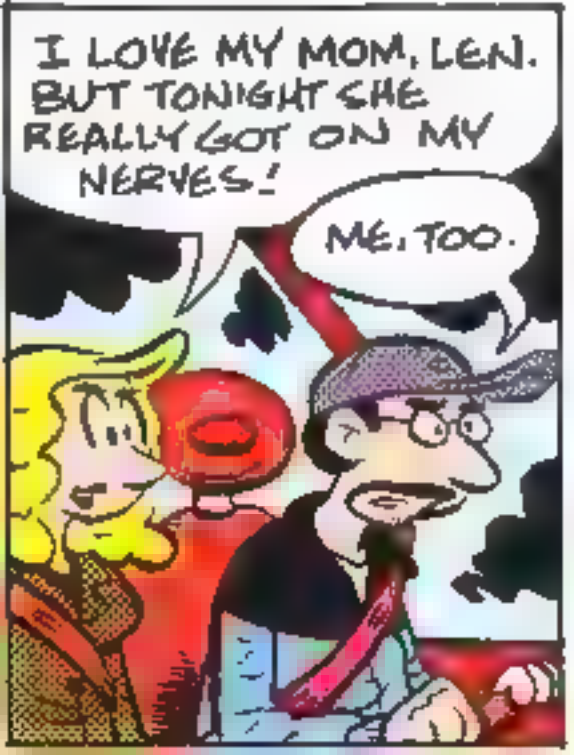

NOW THAT I'M AN ADULT, I FEEL LIKE THEY SHOULDN'T INFLUENCE ME SO MUCH!
INFLUENCE YOU? HOW DO YOU MEAN?


FOR INSTANCE, WHENEVER I DO ANYTHING, I CAN HEAR MY MOTHER'S VOICE, TELLING ME I'M ALL WRONG!
HMM...


YOU NEED TO BUILD YOUR SELF-ESTEEM TO THE POINT WHERE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THE "VOICE" IS ONLY IN YOUR MIND!


YOU DON'T NEED A SHRINK, SONNY--YOU NEED A GIRLFRIEND!
I THINK IT'S A LITTLE MORE COMPLICATED...


BYE, MOM AND DAD! THANKS FOR SUPPER!
OUR PLEASURE, HONEY! THANKS FOR COMING BY!
10.3
WE HAD A GREAT TIME!
YEAH-- IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO SEE YOU GUYS!
DID YOU NOTICE HOW MUCH MY MOM CRITICIZED ME TONIGHT?
MAN, I COULDN'T WAIT TO GET OUT OF THERE!



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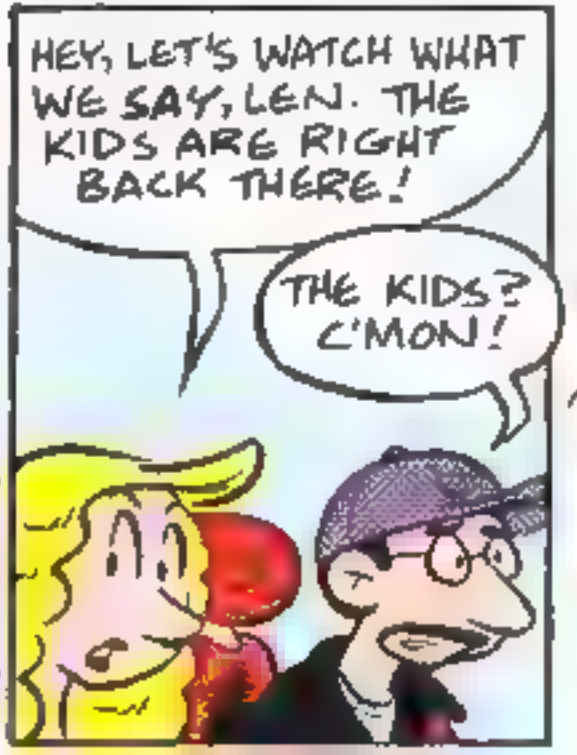
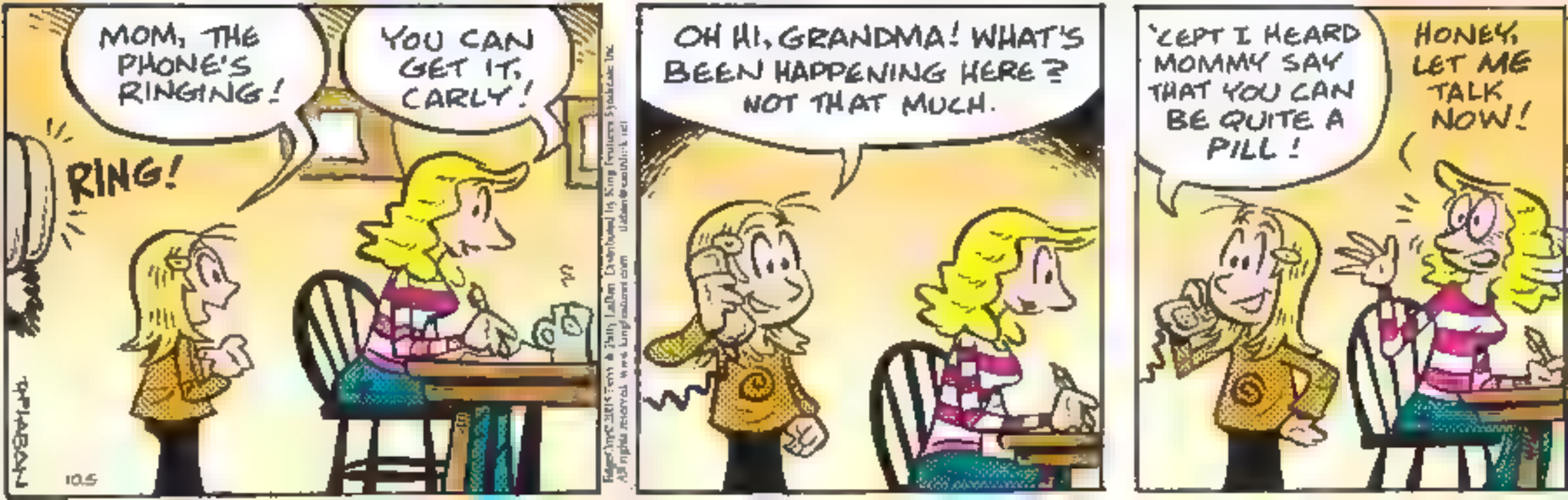
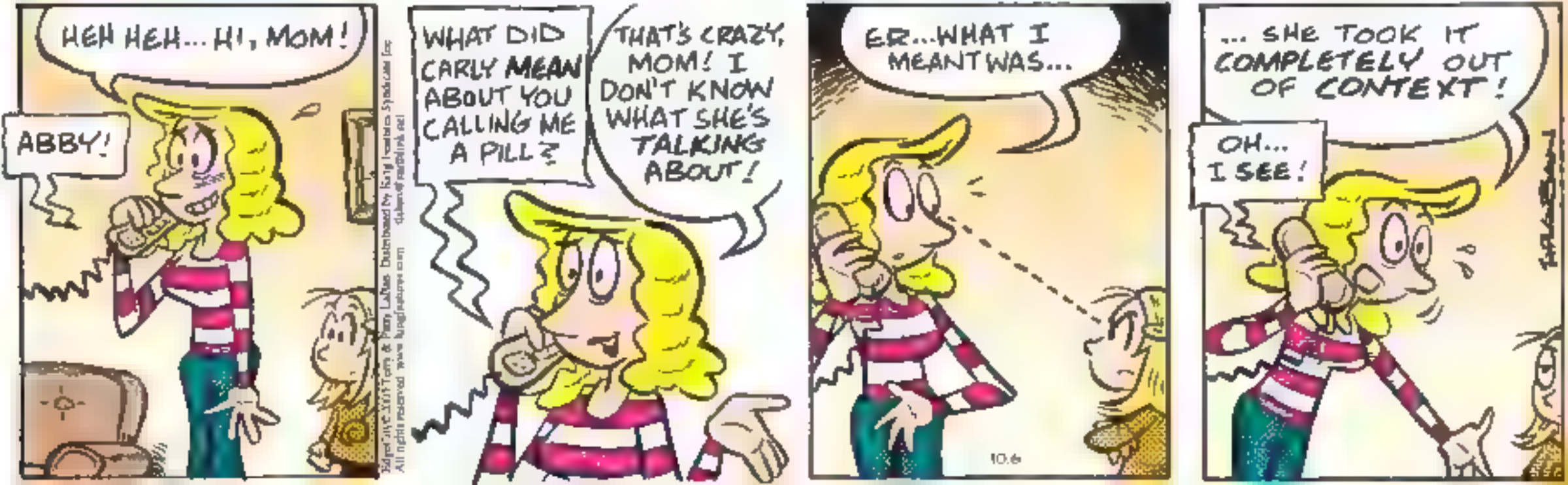
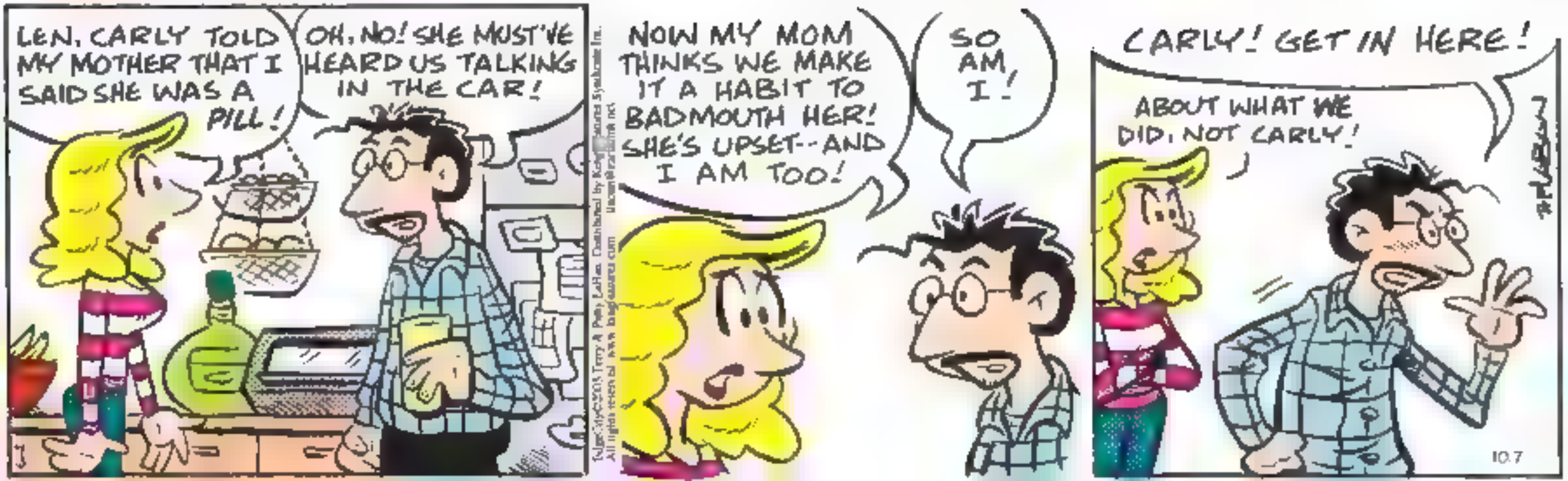
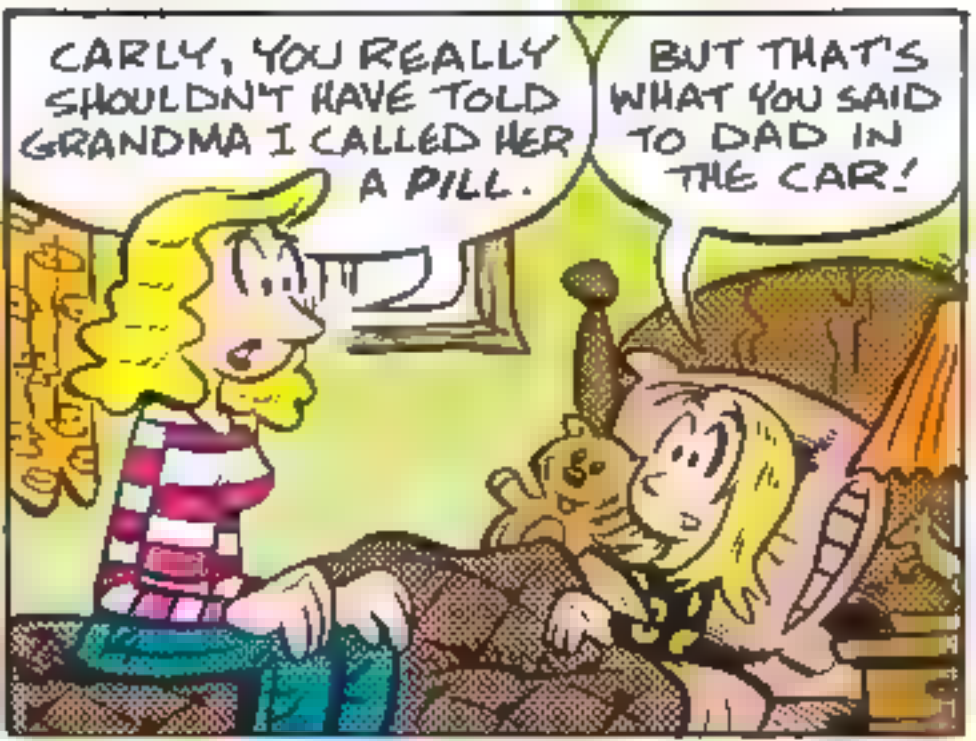
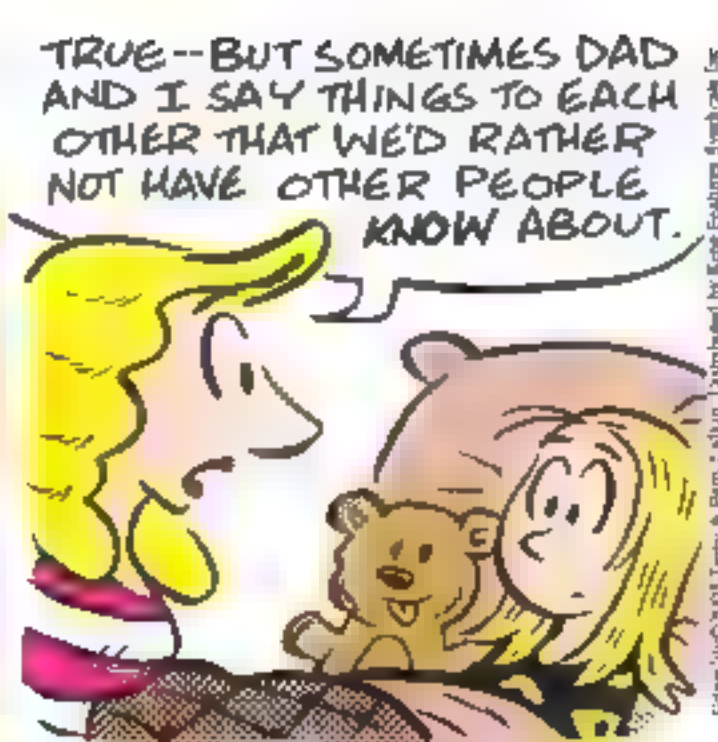



MOM, THE PHONE'S RINGING!
YOU CAN GET IT, CARLY!
RING!
OH HI, GRANDMA! WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING HERE? NOT THAT MUCH.
'CEPT I HEARD MOMMY SAY THAT YOU CAN BE QUITE A PILL!
HONEY, LET ME TALK NOW!

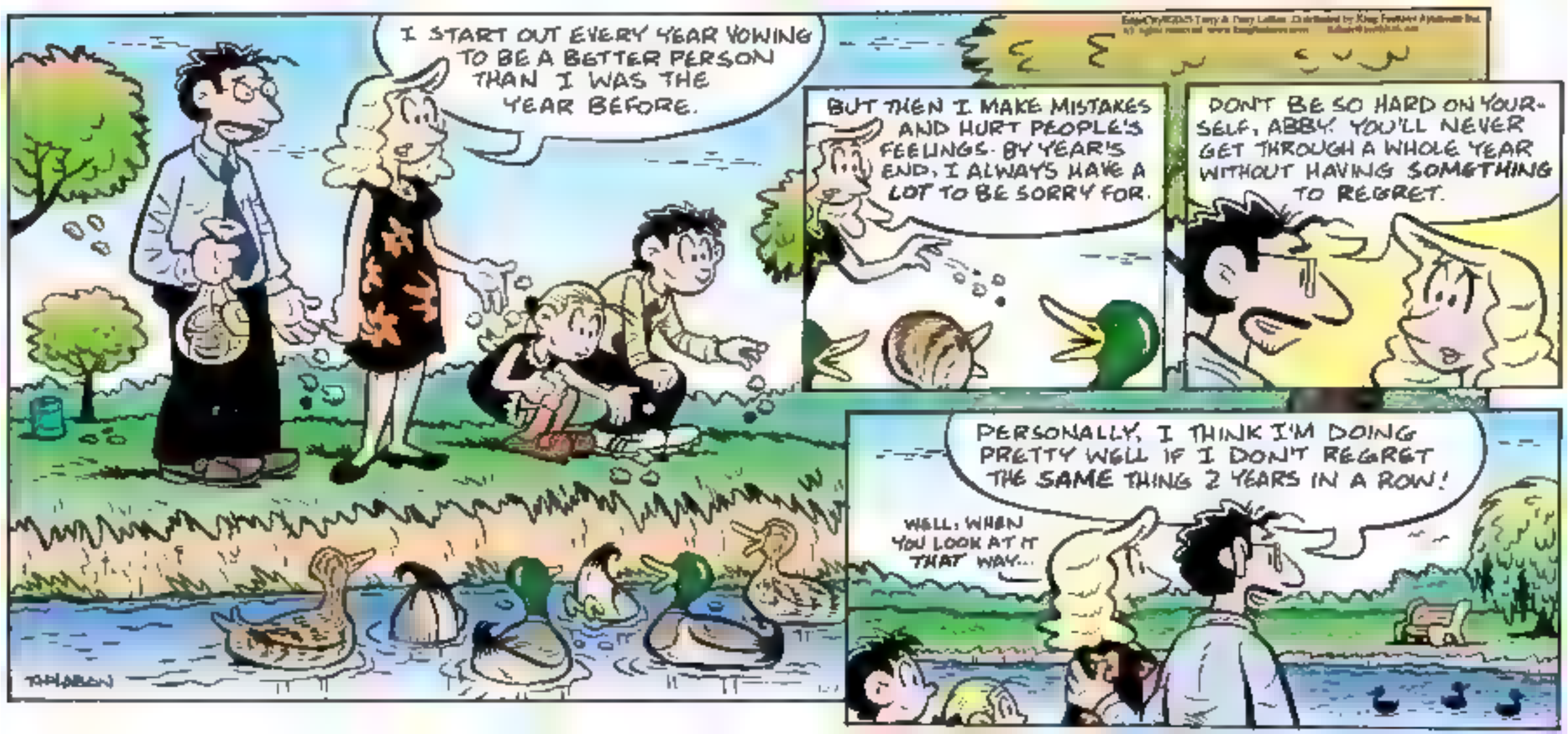

HEH HEH... HI, MOM!
ABBY!
WHAT DID CARLY MEAN ABOUT YOU CALLING ME A PILL?
THAT'S CRAZY, MOM! I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S TALKING ABOUT!
ER...WHAT I MEANT WAS...
10.6
... SHE TOOK IT COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTEXT!
OH... I SEE!

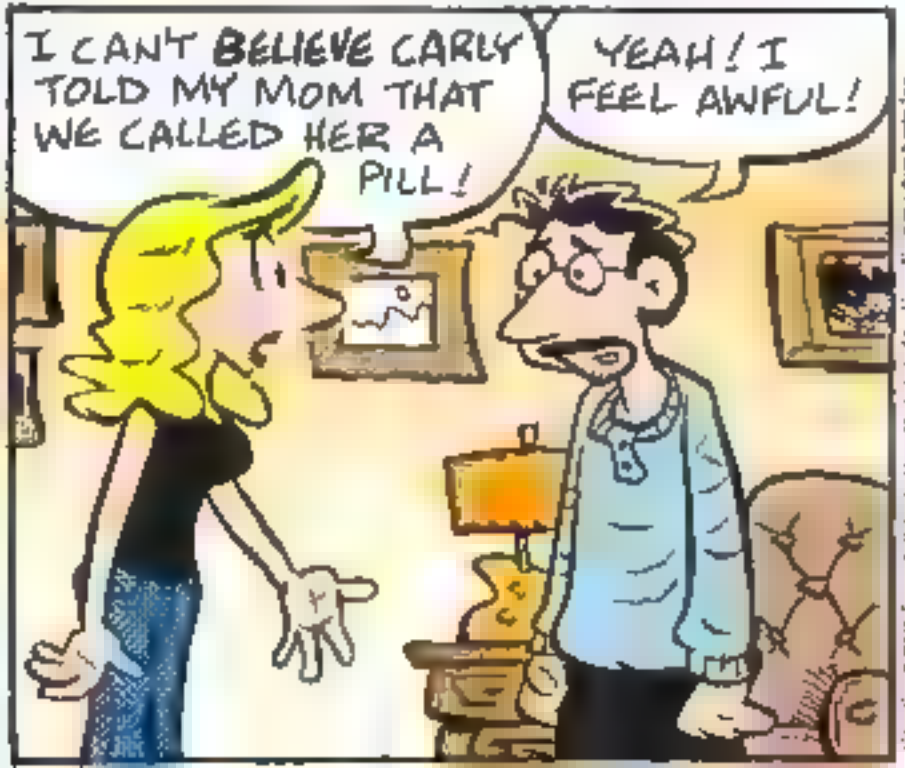

LEN, CARLY TOLD MY MOTHER THAT I SAID SHE WAS A PILL!
OH, NO! SHE MUST'VE HEARD US TALKING IN THE CAR!
NOW MY MOM THINKS WE MAKE IT A HABIT TO BADMOUTH HER! SHE'S UPSET--AND I AM TOO!
SO AM I!
CARLY! GET IN HERE!
ABOUT WHAT WE DID, NOT CARLY!
10.7


CARLY, YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD GRANDMA I CALLED HER A PILL.
BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID TO DAD IN THE CAR!

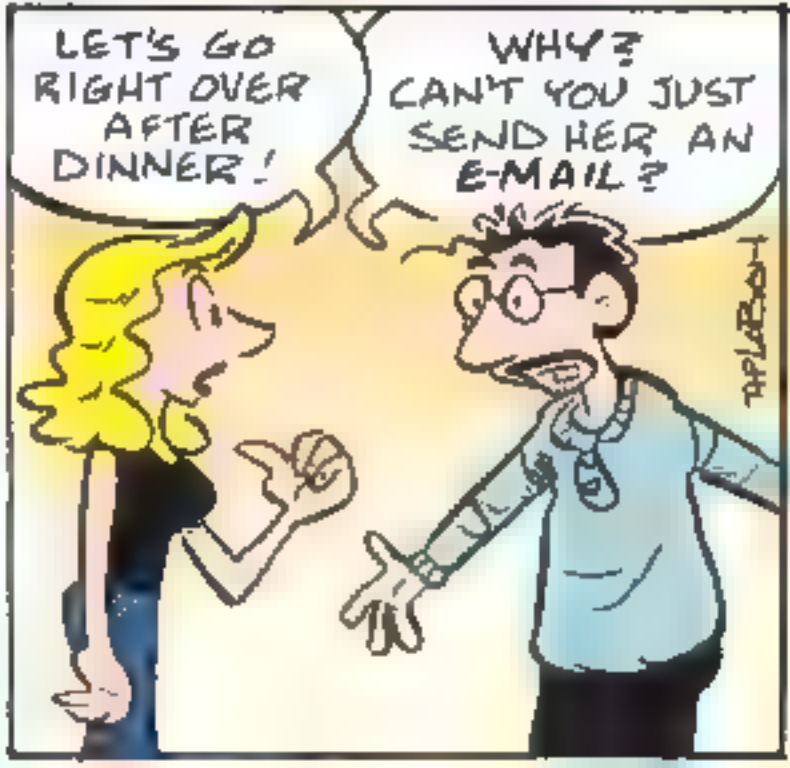

TRUE--BUT SOMETIMES DAD AND I SAY THINGS TO EACH OTHER THAT WE'D RATHER NOT HAVE OTHER PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT.

THEN WHY SAY THEM AT ALL?
OK... GOOD QUESTION!...

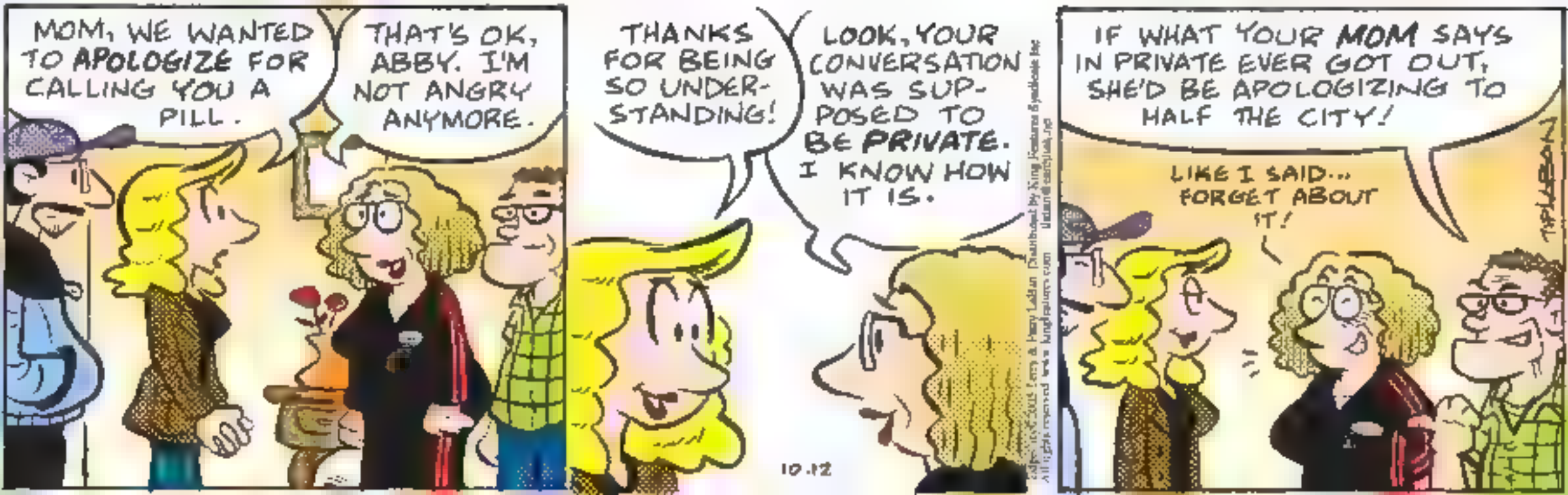

I START OUT EVERY YEAR VOWING TO BE A BETTER PERSON THAN I WAS THE YEAR BEFORE.
BUT THEN I MAKE MISTAKES AND HURT PEOPLE'S FEELINGS. BY YEAR'S END, I ALWAYS HAVE A LOT TO BE SORRY FOR.
DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF, ABBY. YOU'LL NEVER GET THROUGH A WHOLE YEAR WITHOUT HAVING SOMETHING TO REGRET.
PERSONALLY, I THINK I'M DOING PRETTY WELL IF I DON'T REGRET THE SAME THING 2 YEARS IN A ROW!
WELL, WHEN YOU LOOK AT IT THAT WAY...

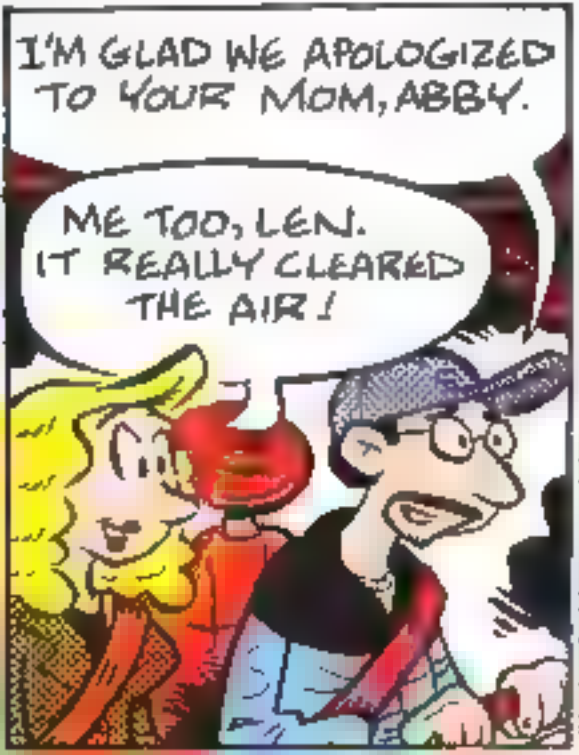

I CAN'T BELIEVE CARLY TOLD MY MOM THAT WE CALLED HER A PILL!
YEAH! I FEEL AWFUL!

I THINK WE NEED TO APOLOGIZE TO MY MOM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
ABSOLUTELY! WAITING WOULD ONLY MAKE THE SITUATION WORSE!
10-10


LET'S GO RIGHT OVER AFTER DINNER!
WHY? CAN'T YOU JUST SEND HER AN E-MAIL?

ABBY, I'D RATHER NOT GO OVER TO YOUR PARENTS' HOUSE TONIGHT!
MY MOTHER'S UPSET, LEN! SHE KNOWS WE CALLED HER A PILL!
THIS TIME OF YEAR ESPECIALLY, IF YOU HURT SOMEONE, YOU NEED TO MAKE IT RIGHT!
I AGREE--WE SHOULD APOLOGIZE!
BUT WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE SUCH A BIG DEAL?
SINCERE APOLOGIES ALWAYS ARE.
10-11

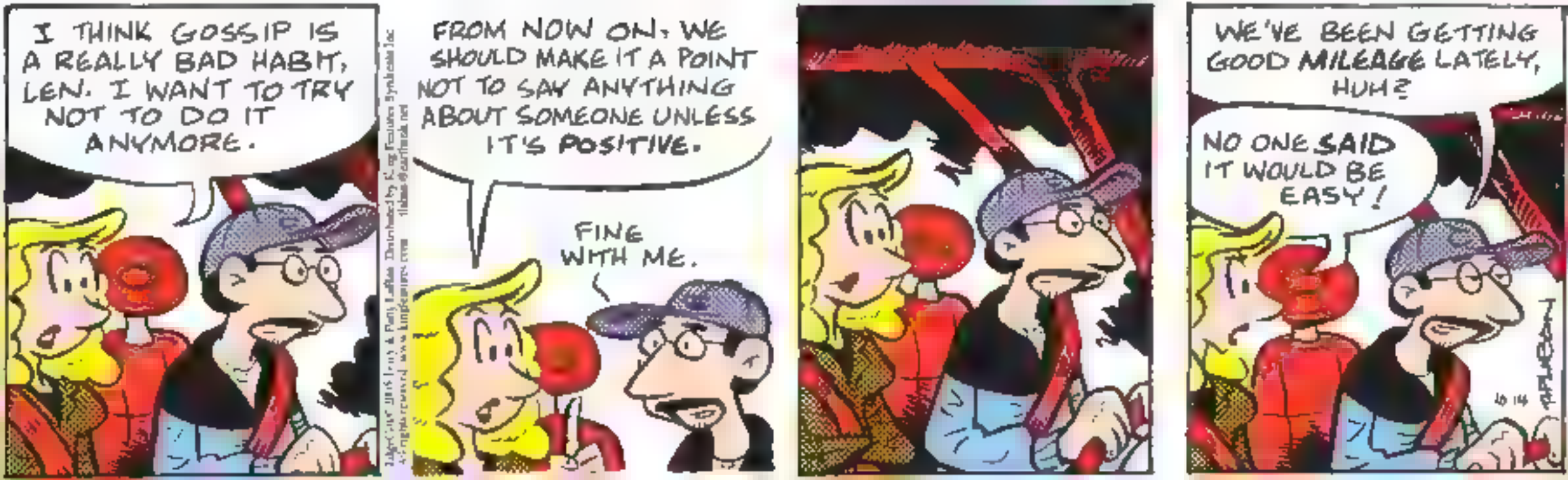

MOM, WE WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR CALLING YOU A PILL.
THAT'S OK, ABBY. I'M NOT ANGRY ANYMORE.
THANKS FOR BEING SO UNDERSTANDING!
LOOK, YOUR CONVERSATION WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PRIVATE. I KNOW HOW IT IS.
10-12
IF WHAT YOUR MOM SAYS IN PRIVATE EVER GOT OUT, SHE'D BE APOLOGIZING TO HALF THE CITY!
LIKE I SAID... FORGET ABOUT IT!

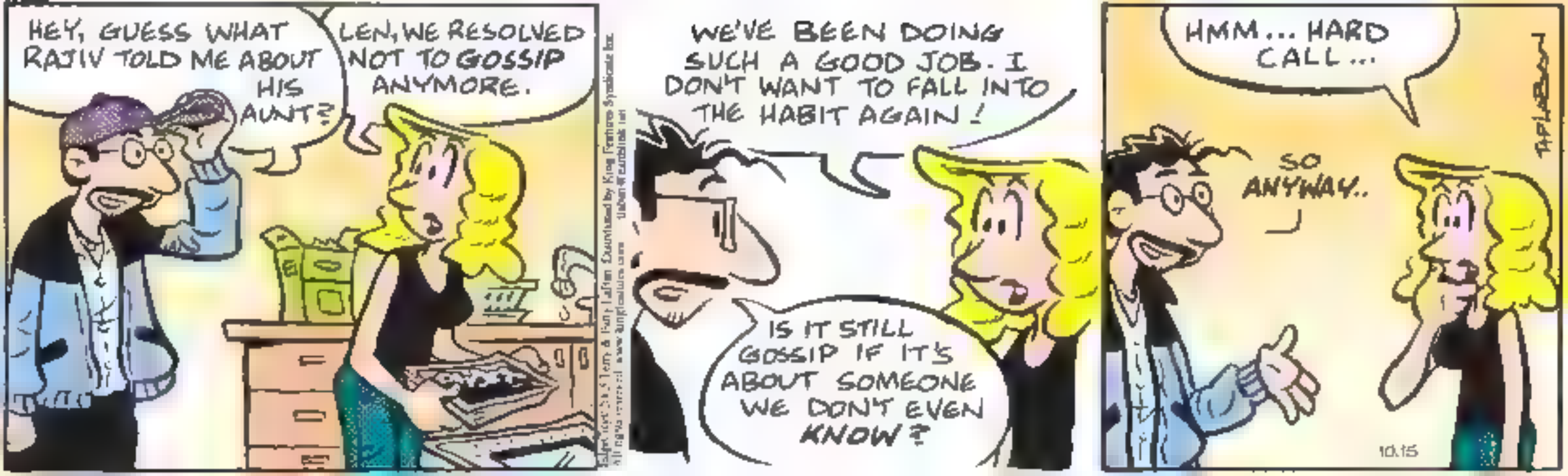

I'M GLAD WE APOLOGIZED TO YOUR MOM, ABBY.
ME TOO, LEN. IT REALLY CLEARED THE AIR!

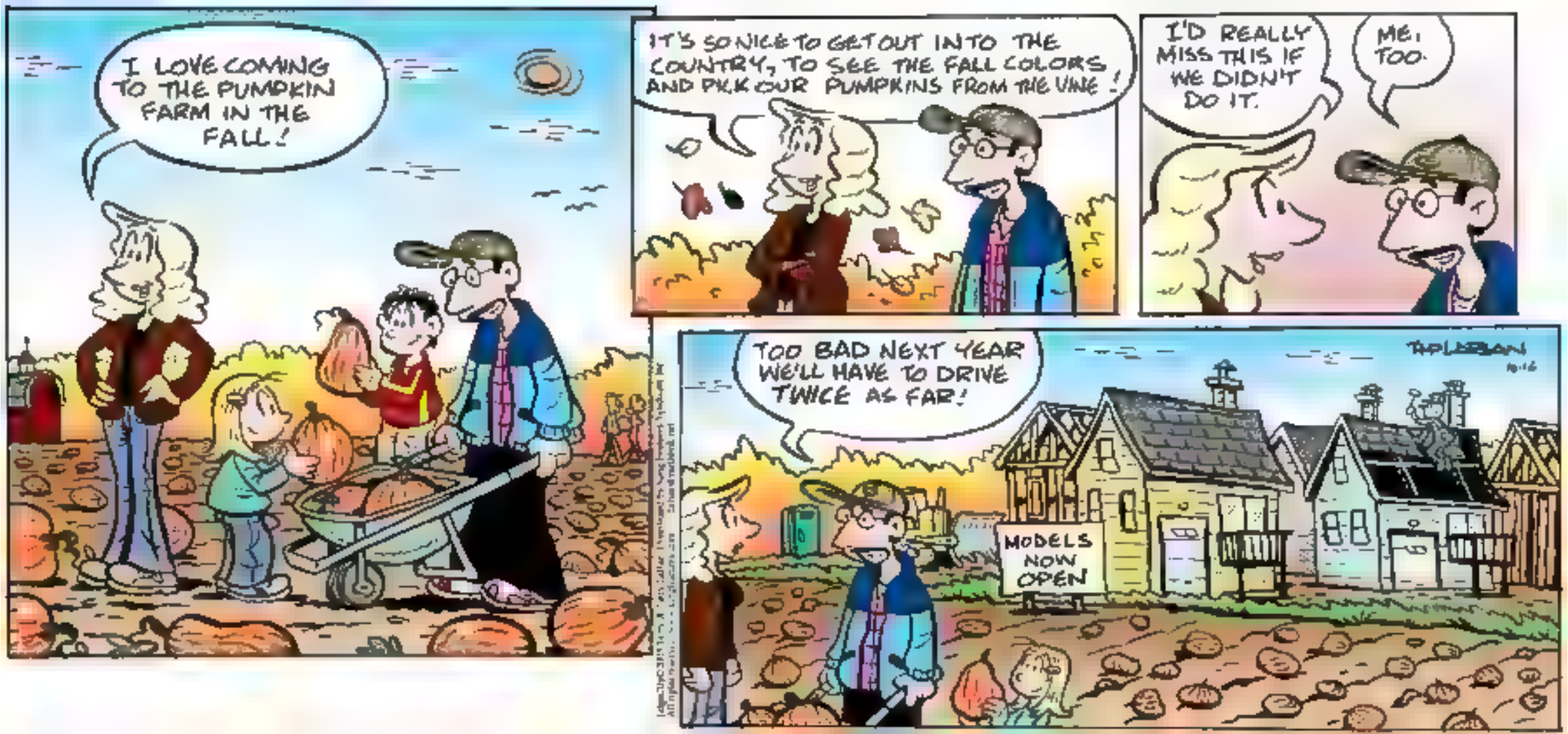
BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO SAY WE'RE SORRY FOR SOMETHING. WE SHOULD TRY NOT TO DO THE SAME THING AGAIN!
10.13

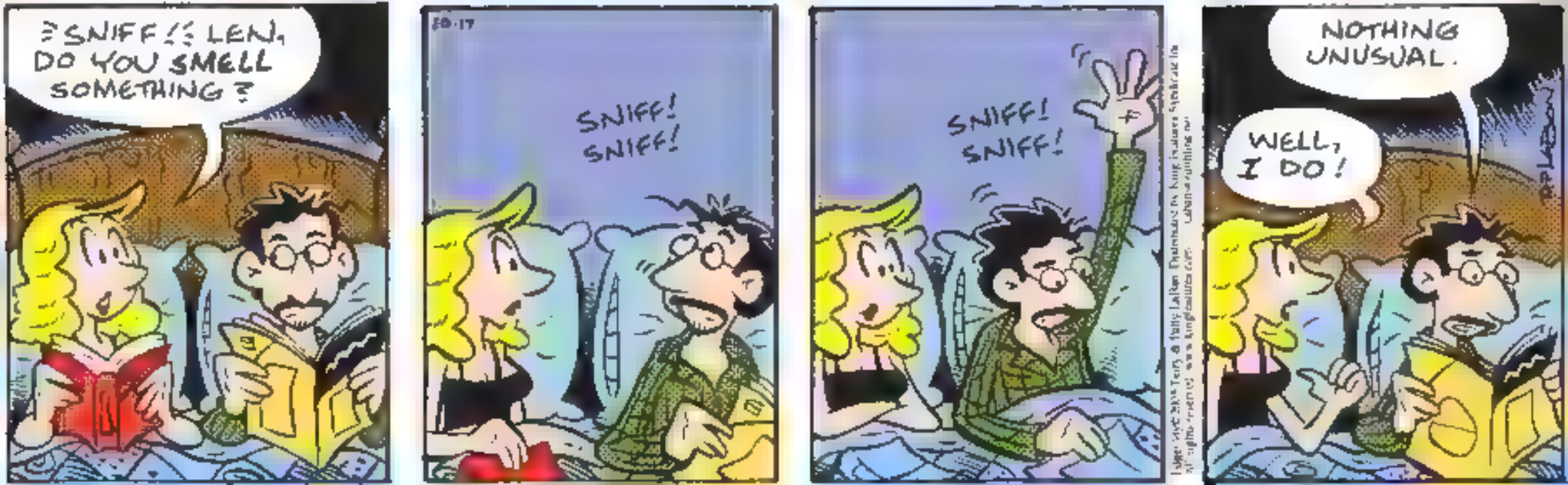
IN THIS CASE, IT MEANS WE SHOULD TRY NOT TO GOSSIP ANYMORE.
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.

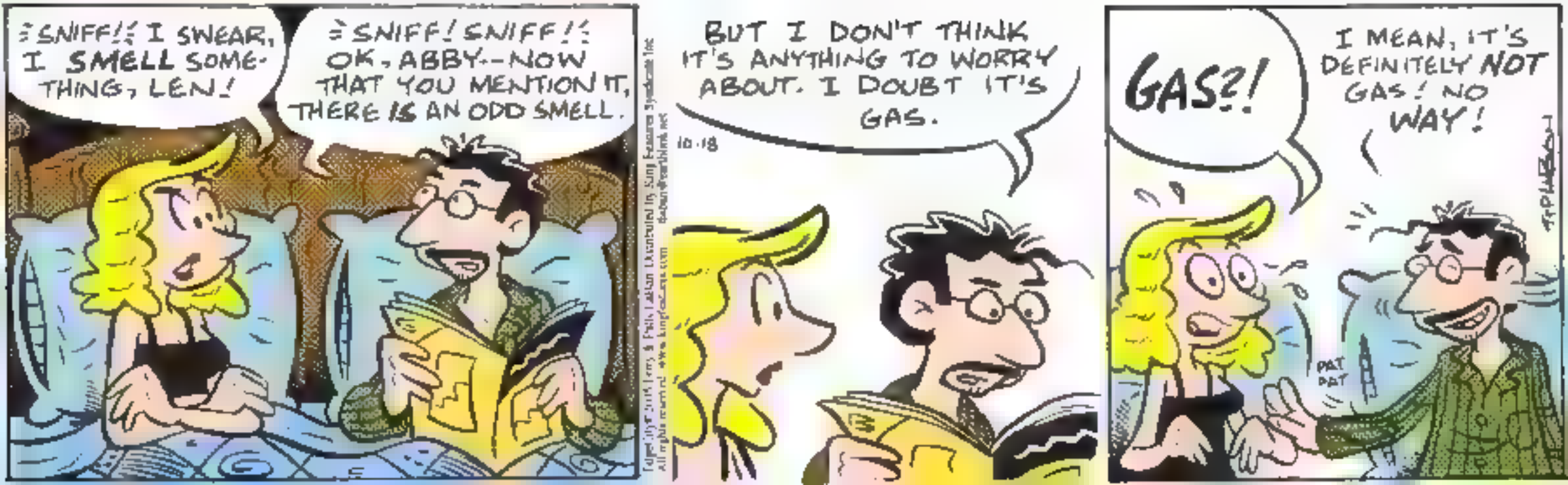
HEH... HEY, Y'KNOW WHAT I HEARD ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE ACROSS THE STREET?
LEN...


I THINK GOSSIP IS A REALLY BAD HABIT, LEN. I WANT TO TRY NOT TO DO IT ANYMORE.
FROM NOW ON, WE SHOULD MAKE IT A POINT NOT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT SOMEONE UNLESS IT'S POSITIVE.
FINE WITH ME.
WE'VE BEEN GETTING GOOD MILEAGE LATELY, HUH?
NO ONE SAID IT WOULD BE EASY!

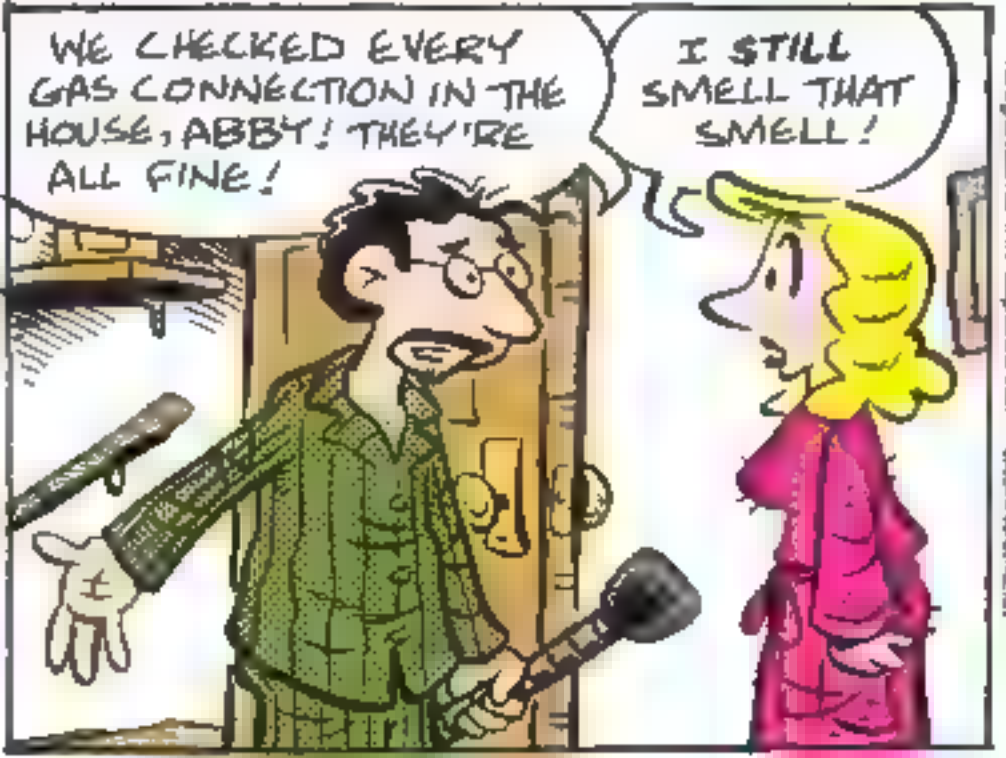

HEY, GUESS WHAT RAJIV TOLD ME ABOUT HIS AUNT?
LEN, WE RESOLVED NOT TO GOSSIP ANYMORE.
WE'VE BEEN DOING SUCH A GOOD JOB. I DON'T WANT TO FALL INTO THE HABIT AGAIN!
IS IT STILL GOSSIP IF IT'S ABOUT SOMEONE WE DON'T EVEN KNOW?
HMM... HARD CALL...
SO ANYWAY..
10.15


I LOVE COMING TO THE PUMPKIN FARM IN THE FALL!
IT'S SO NICE TO GET OUT INTO THE COUNTRY, TO SEE THE FALL COLORS AND PICK OUR PUMPKINS FROM THE VINE!
I'D REALLY MISS THIS IF WE DIDN'T DO IT.
ME, TOO.
TOO BAD NEXT YEAR WE'LL HAVE TO DRIVE TWICE AS FAR!
MODELS NOW OPEN


SNIFF! LEN, DO YOU SMELL SOMETHING?
SNIFF! SNIFF!
SNIFF! SNIFF!
NOTHING UNUSUAL.
WELL, I DO!


SNIFF!! I SWEAR, I SMELL SOMETHING, LEN!
SNIFF! SNIFF!! OK, ABBY--NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THERE IS AN ODD SMELL.
BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. I DOUBT IT'S GAS.
10-18
GAS?!
I MEAN, IT'S DEFINITELY NOT GAS! NO WAY!
PAT PAT

DO YOU THINK THERE'S A GAS LEAK, LEN?
THERE'S AN ODD SMELL, ABBY-- BUT IT'S NOT GAS!
ARE YOU SURE?
ABSOLUTELY! IT DOESN'T SMELL ANYTHING LIKE GAS!
BUT IF IT WAS GAS, THE WHOLE HOUSE COULD BLOW UP, RIGHT?
YES, I SUPPOSE SO.
10-19
BUT IT'S NOT!
WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!



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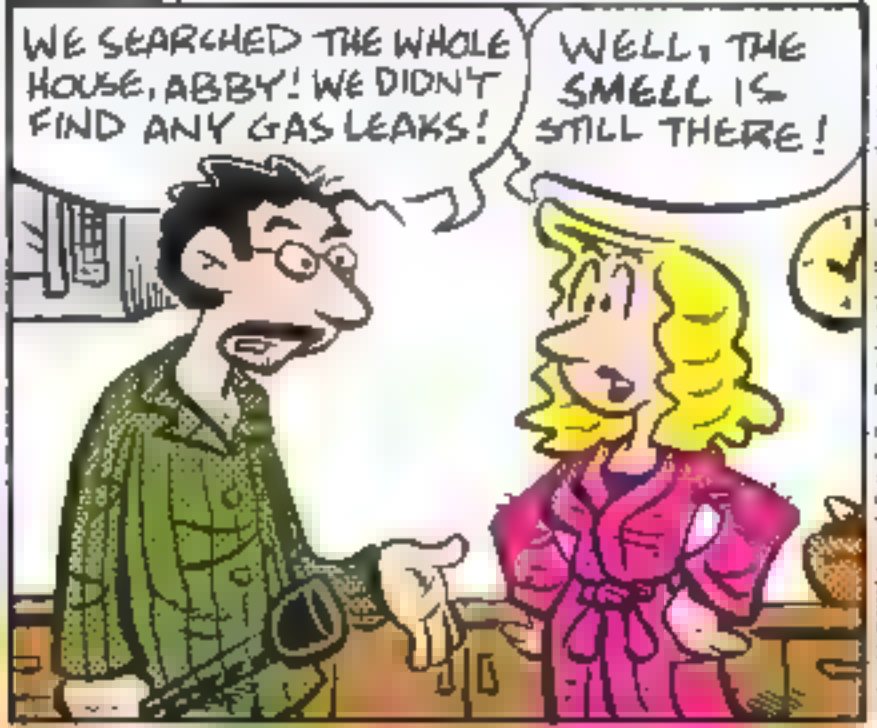
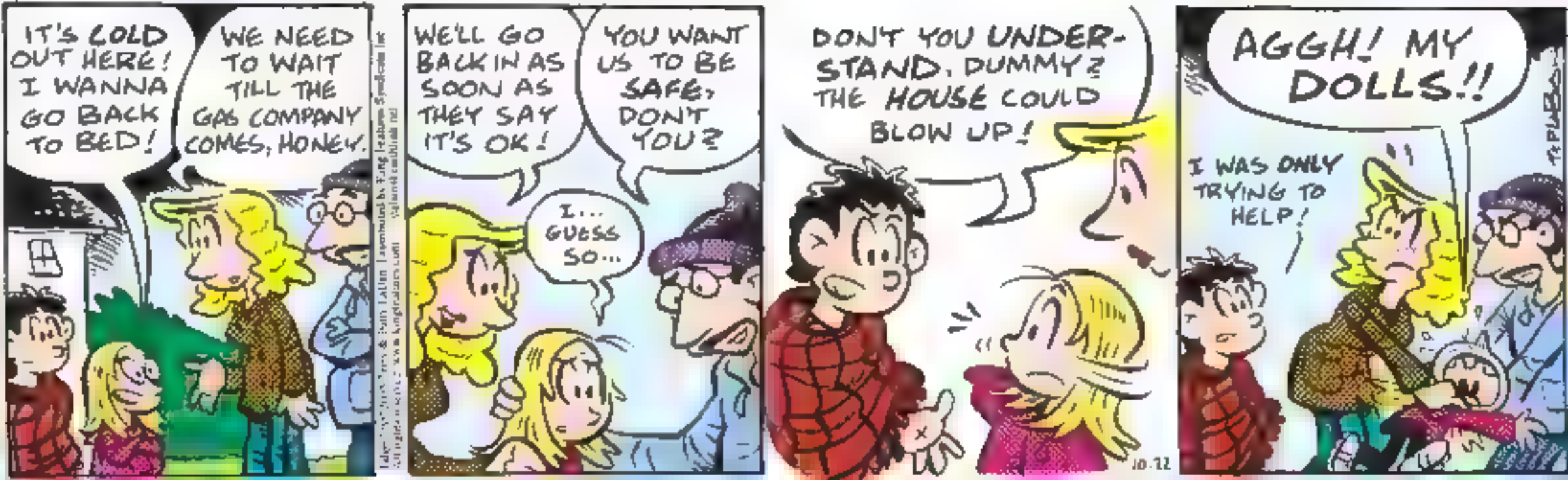

WE SEARCHED THE WHOLE HOUSE, ABBY! WE DIDN'T FIND ANY GAS LEAKS!
WELL, THE SMELL IS STILL THERE!

LOOK--IF IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER, LET'S CALL THE GAS COMPANY AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR THEM TO TAKE A LOOK.
YELLOW PAGES

HELLO? YEAH... WE SMELL AN ODD SMELL AND WERE WONDERING IF MAYBE YOU COULD...
GET OUT! NOW!!

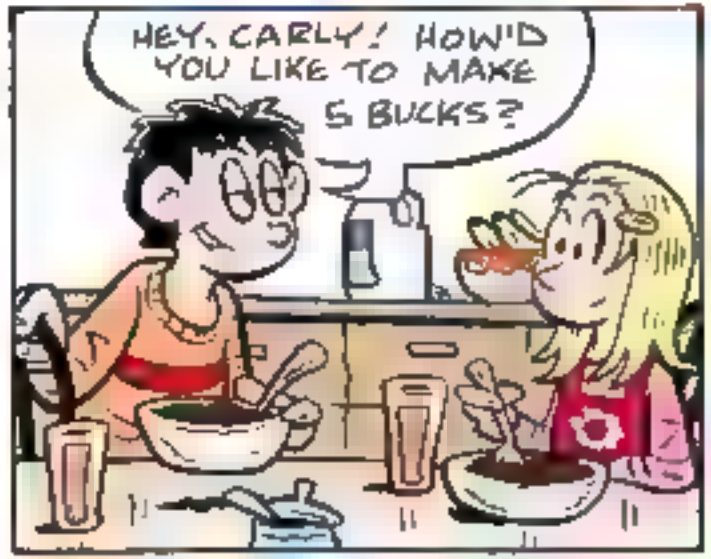

IT'S COLD OUT HERE! I WANNA GO BACK TO BED!
WE NEED TO WAIT TILL THE GAS COMPANY COMES, HONEY.
WE'LL GO BACK IN AS SOON AS THEY SAY IT'S OK!
YOU WANT US TO BE SAFE, DONT YOU?
I... GUESS SO...
DONT YOU UNDERSTAND, DUMMY? THE HOUSE COULD BLOW UP!
AGGH! MY DOLLS!!
I WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP!

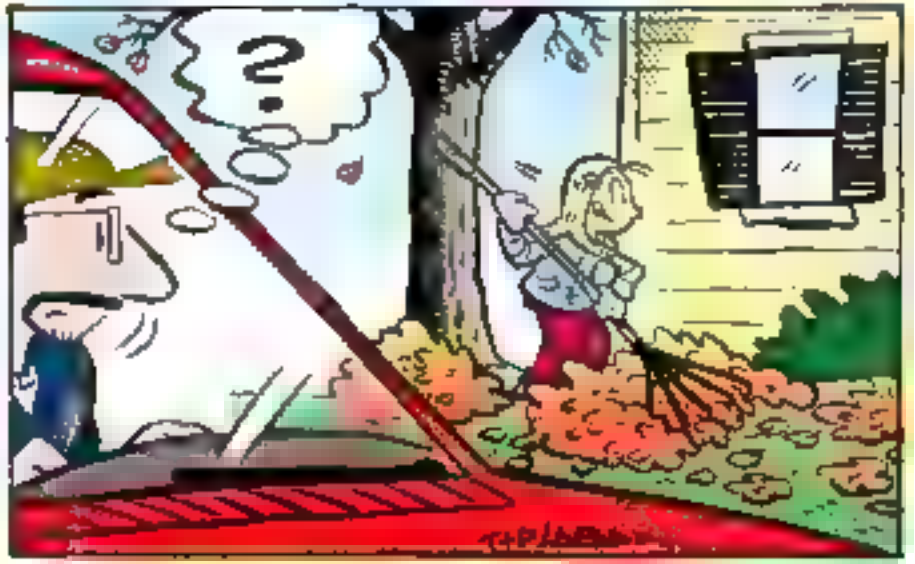
COLIN, I WANT YOU TO RAKE THE LEAVES AFTER SCHOOL TODAY.
WHAT ARE YOU PAYING THIS YEAR?

5 DOLLARS.
5 DOLLARS? THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN PAYING FOR THE LAST 3 YEARS!

I HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT MOST KIDS MY AGE GET AT LEAST 10 DOLLARS!
THAT'S A BIG RAISE. BUT YOU HAVE GOTTEN OLDER.

OK...10 DOLLARS IT IS. BUT YOU'D BETTER GET THE JOB DONE!
THANKS, DAD! YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED!


HEY, CARLY! HOW'D YOU LIKE TO MAKE 5 BUCKS?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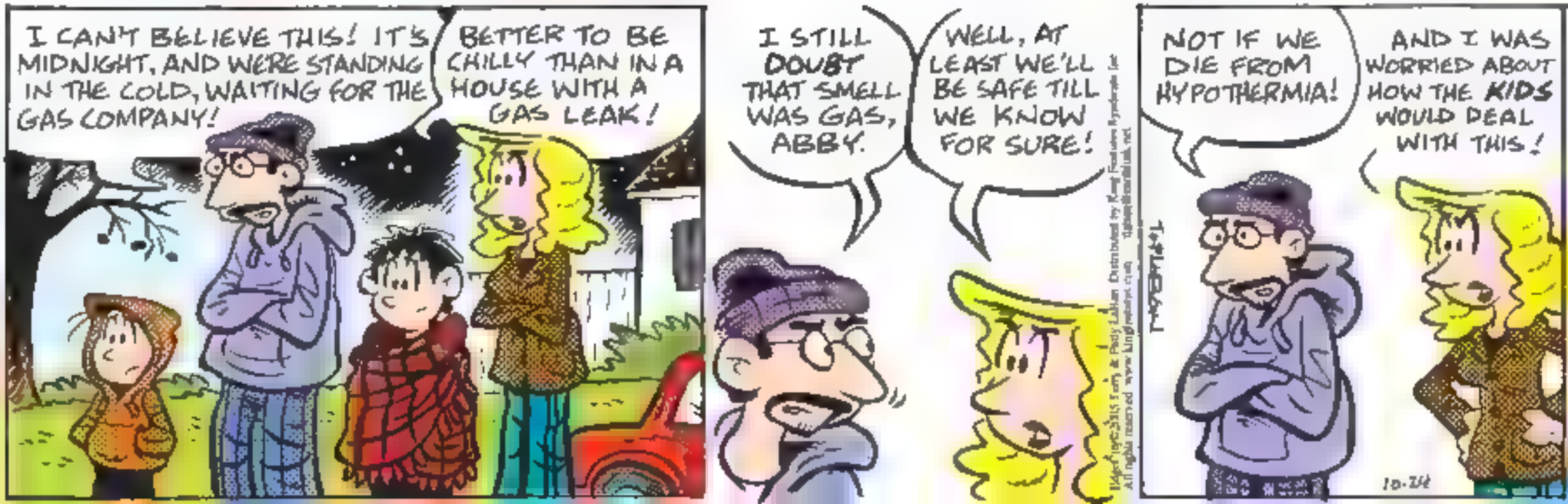
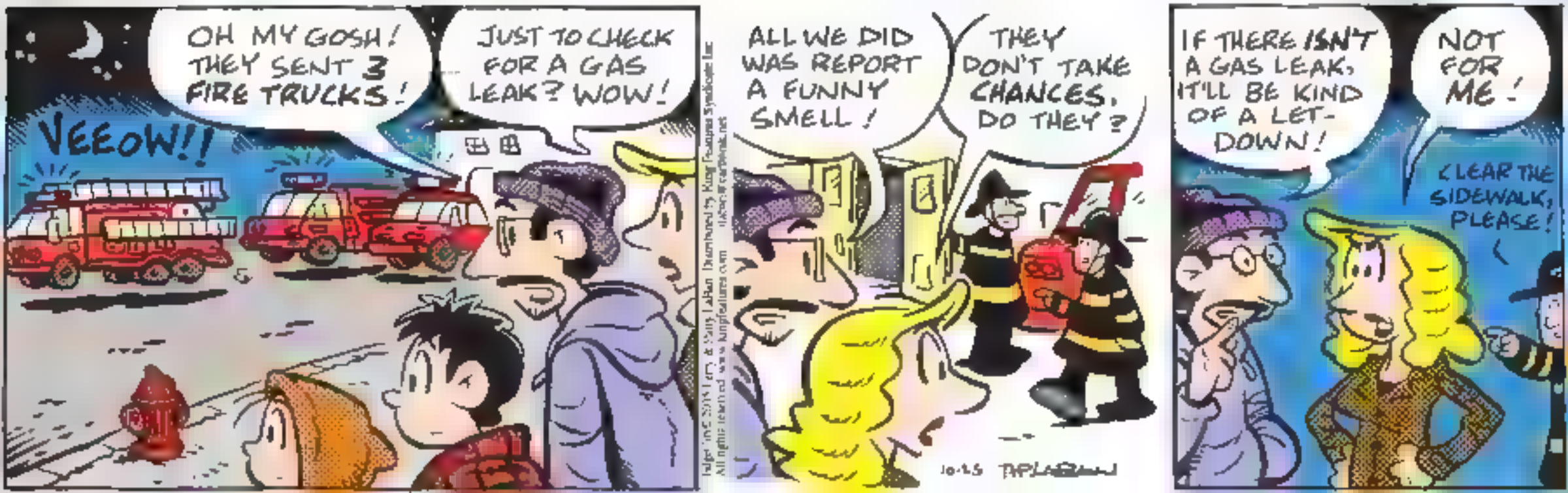
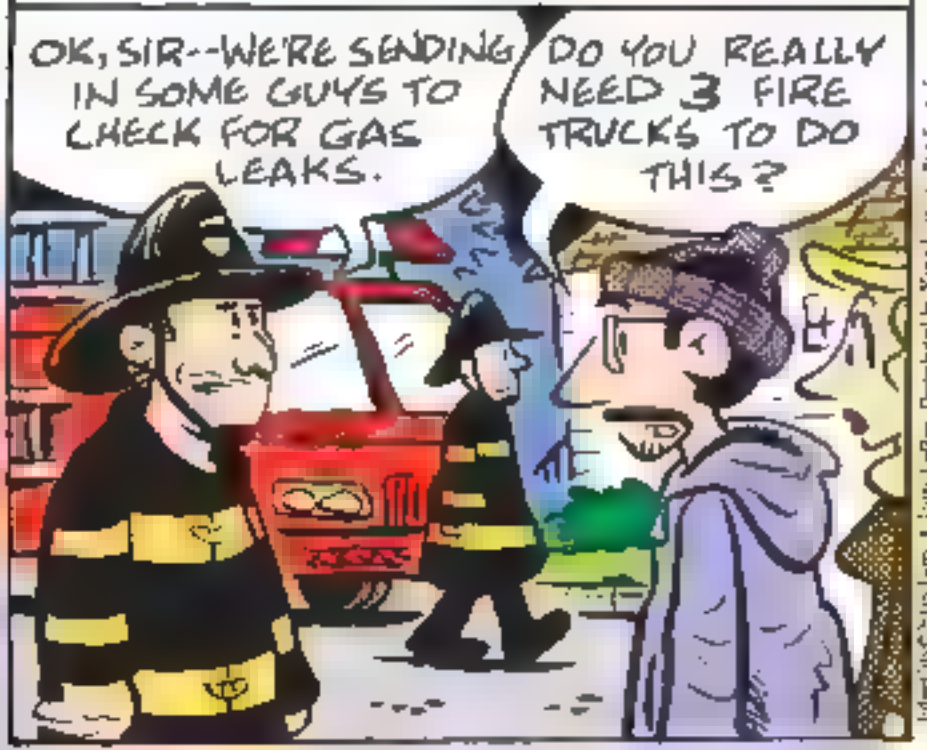
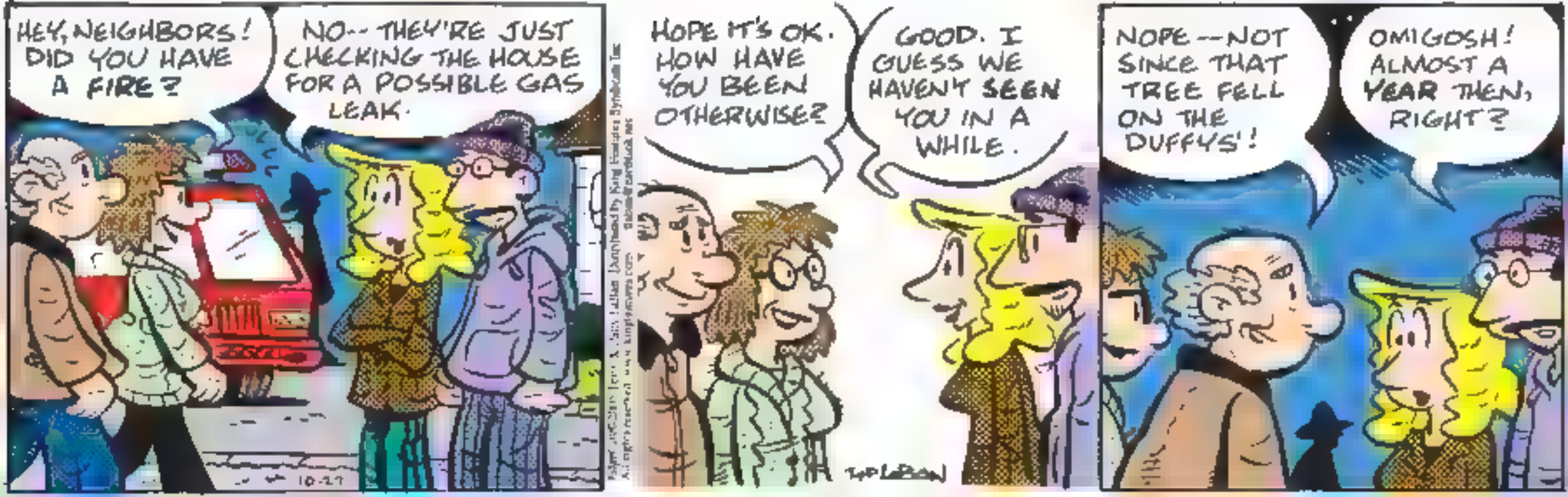

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! IT'S MIDNIGHT, AND WE'RE STANDING IN THE COLD, WAITING FOR THE GAS COMPANY!
BETTER TO BE CHILLY THAN IN A HOUSE WITH A GAS LEAK!
I STILL DOUBT THAT SMELL WAS GAS, ABBY.
WELL, AT LEAST WE'LL BE SAFE TILL WE KNOW FOR SURE!
NOT IF WE DIE FROM HYPOTHERMIA!
AND I WAS WORRIED ABOUT HOW THE KIDS WOULD DEAL WITH THIS!
10-24

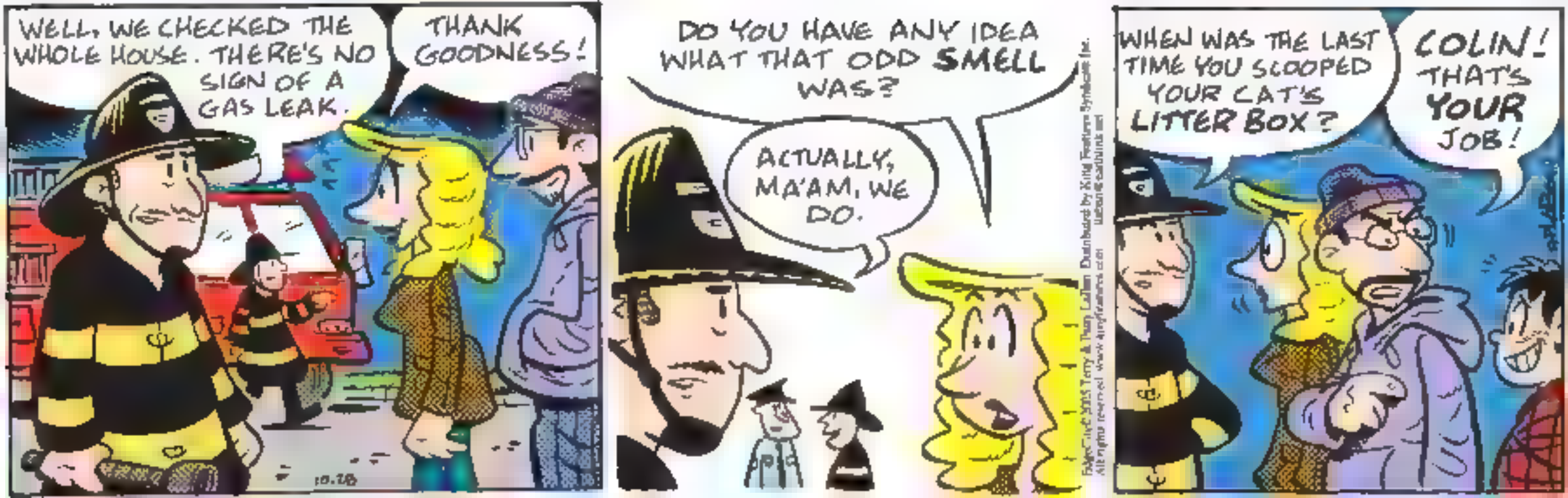

OH MY GOSH! THEY SENT 3 FIRE TRUCKS!
JUST TO CHECK FOR A GAS LEAK? WOW!
VEEOW!!
ALL WE DID WAS REPORT A FUNNY SMELL!
THEY DON'T TAKE CHANCES, DO THEY?
IF THERE ISN'T A GAS LEAK, IT'LL BE KIND OF A LET-DOWN!
NOT FOR ME!
CLEAR THE SIDEWALK, PLEASE!

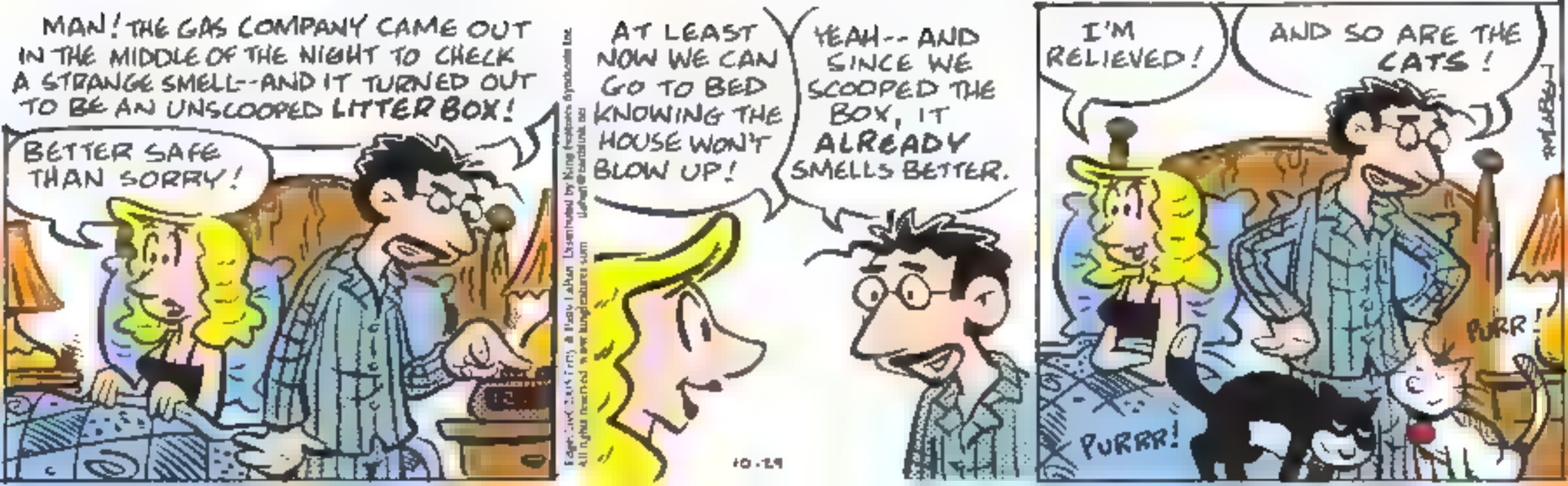

OK, SIR--WE'RE SENDING IN SOME GUYS TO CHECK FOR GAS LEAKS.
DO YOU REALLY NEED 3 FIRE TRUCKS TO DO THIS?

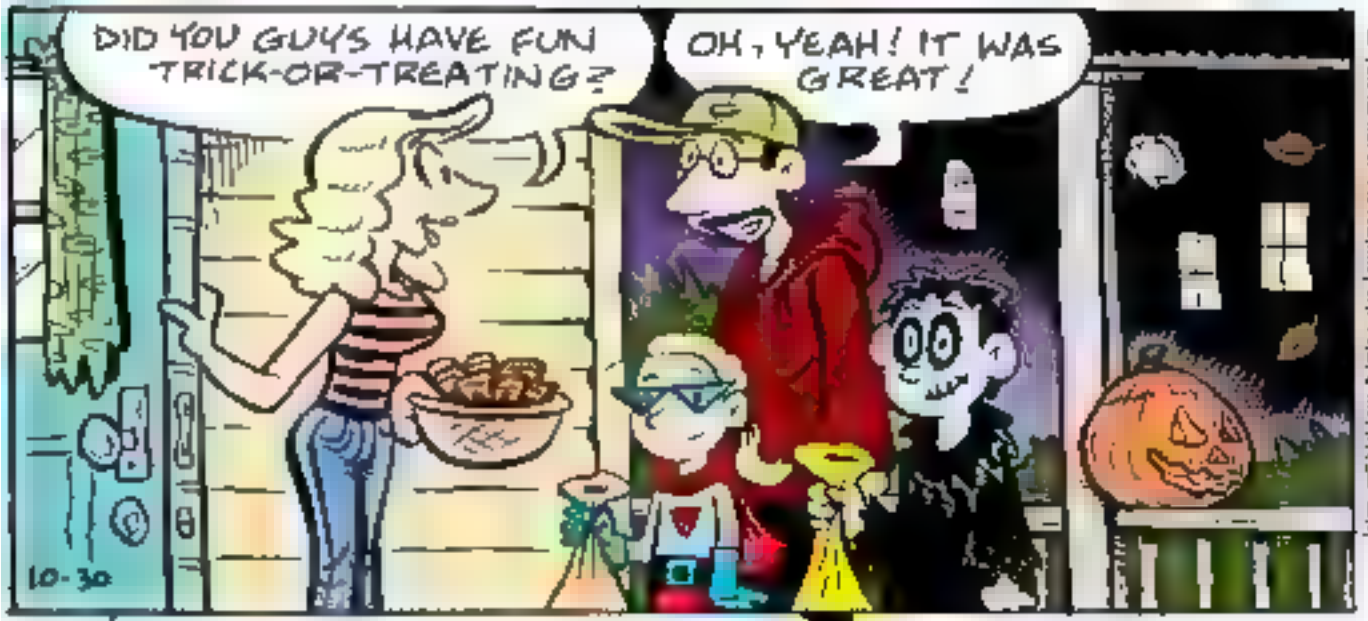
WE NEED TO TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE PRECAUTION, SIR. THERE'S A LOT AT STAKE!
10.26

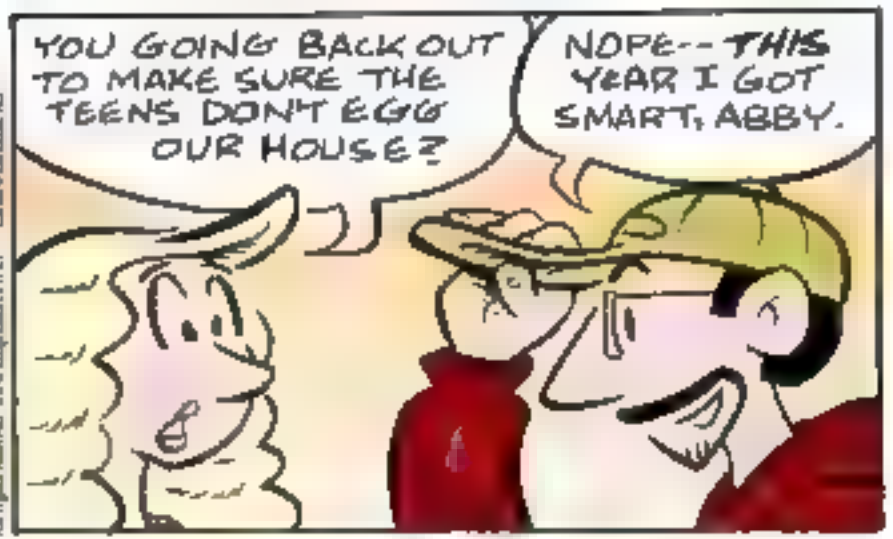
I SUPPOSE OUR HOUSE COULD BLOW UP.
OR, WE COULD GET SUED!


HEY, NEIGHBORS! DID YOU HAVE A FIRE?
NO-- THEY'RE JUST CHECKING THE HOUSE FOR A POSSIBLE GAS LEAK.
10-27
HOPE IT'S OK. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN OTHERWISE?
GOOD. I GUESS WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE.
NOPE --NOT SINCE THAT TREE FELL ON THE DUFFYS'!
OMIGOSH! ALMOST A YEAR THEN, RIGHT?

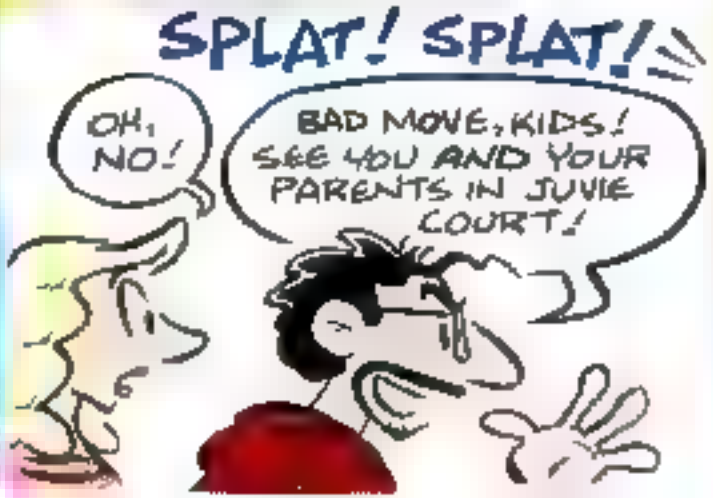

WELL, WE CHECKED THE WHOLE HOUSE. THERE'S NO SIGN OF A GAS LEAK.
THANK GOODNESS!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THAT ODD SMELL WAS?
ACTUALLY, MA'AM, WE DO.
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SCOOPED YOUR CAT'S LITTER BOX?
COLIN! THAT'S YOUR JOB!

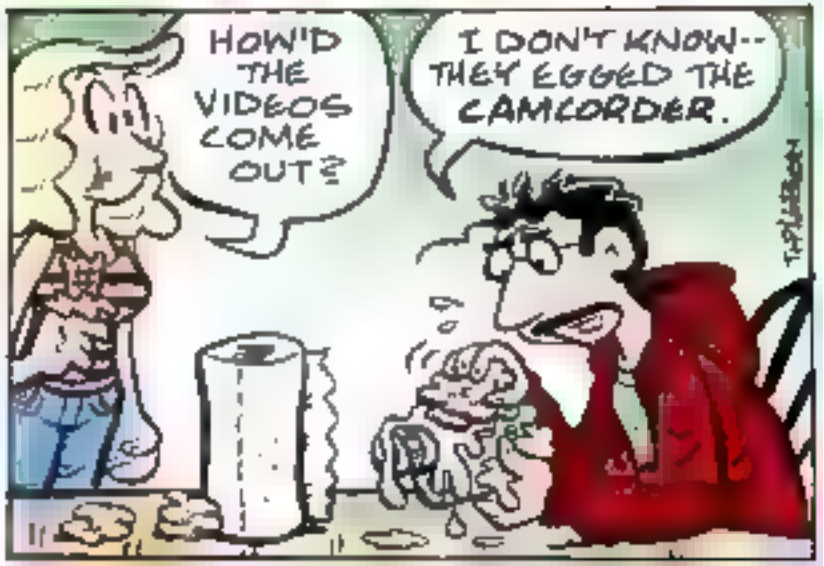

MAN! THE GAS COMPANY CAME OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT TO CHECK A STRANGE SMELL--AND IT TURNED OUT TO BE AN UNSCOOPED LITTER BOX!
BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY!
AT LEAST NOW WE CAN GO TO BED KNOWING THE HOUSE WON'T BLOW UP!
YEAH-- AND SINCE WE SCOOPED THE BOX, IT ALREADY SMELLS BETTER.
I'M RELIEVED!
AND SO ARE THE CATS!
PURRR!
PURRR!

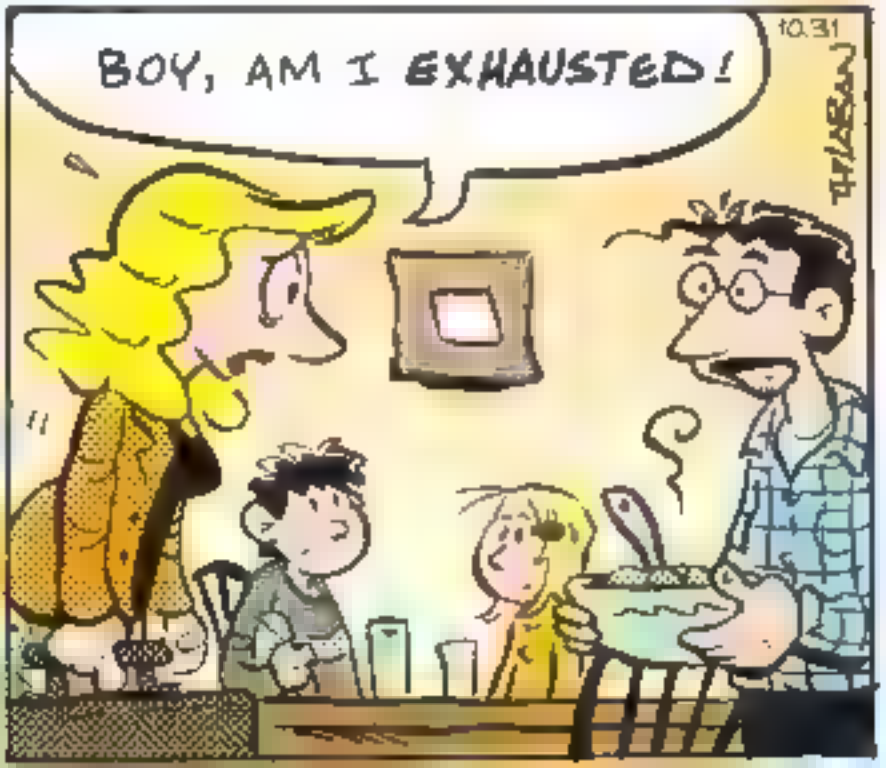

DID YOU GUYS HAVE FUN TRICK-OR-TREATING?
OH, YEAH! IT WAS GREAT!
10-30


YOU GOING BACK OUT TO MAKE SURE THE TEENS DON'T EGG OUR HOUSE?
NOPE--THIS YEAR I GOT SMART, ABBY.

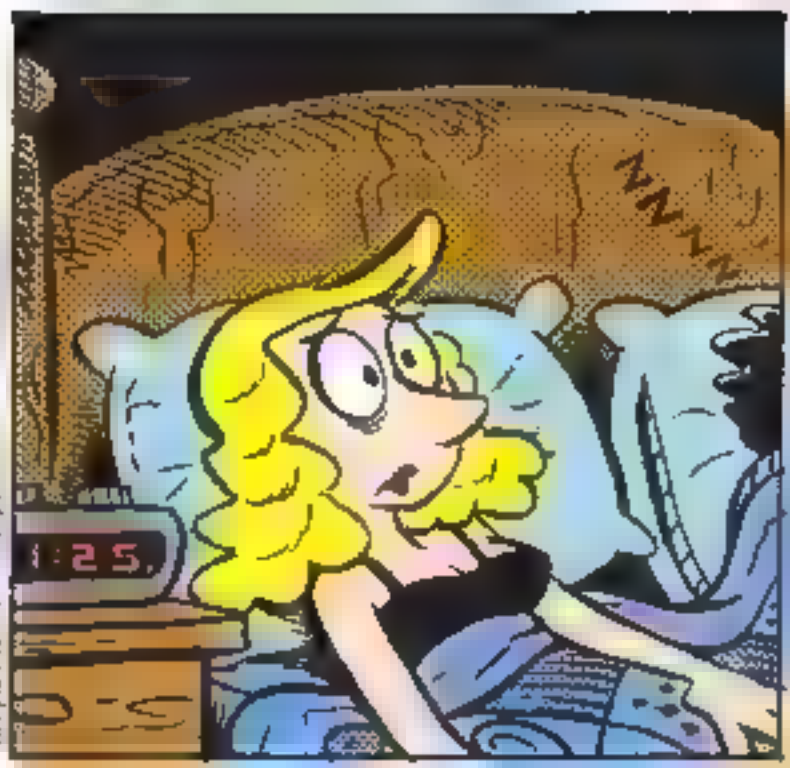
I RIGGED UP MY CAMCORDER OUTSIDE. IF THEY HIT OUR HOUSE AGAIN, I'LL SEND THE VIDEOS RIGHT TO THE LOCAL POLICE!


SPLAT! SPLAT!
OH, NO!
BAD MOVE, KIDS! SEE YOU AND YOUR PARENTS IN JUVIE COURT!


HOW'D THE VIDEOS COME OUT?
I DON'T KNOW--THEY EGGED THE CAMCORDER.


BOY, AM I EXHAUSTED!
10.31
TH/LABAN

ALL I WANT TO DO IS GO TO BED AND GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!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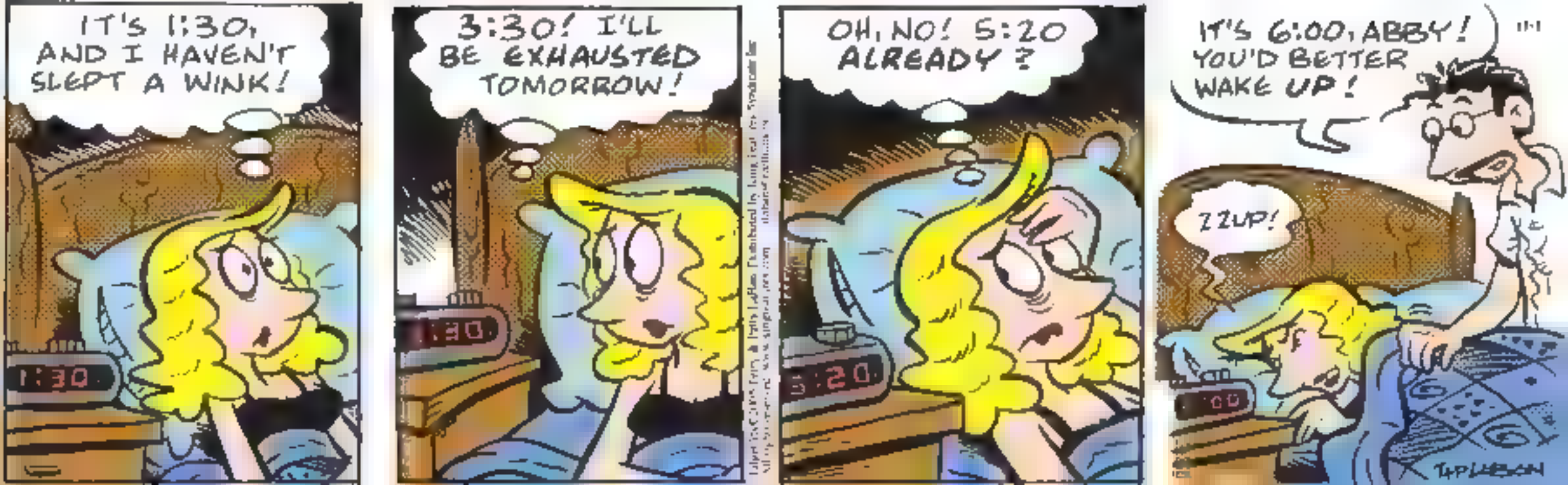
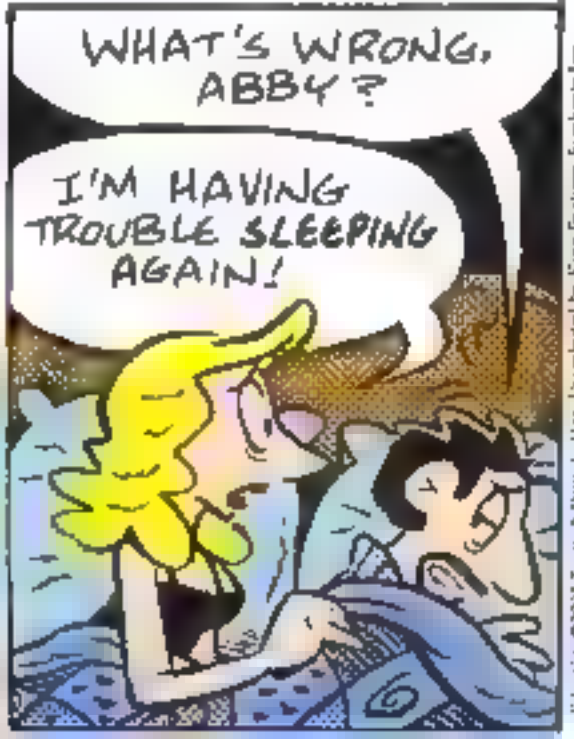
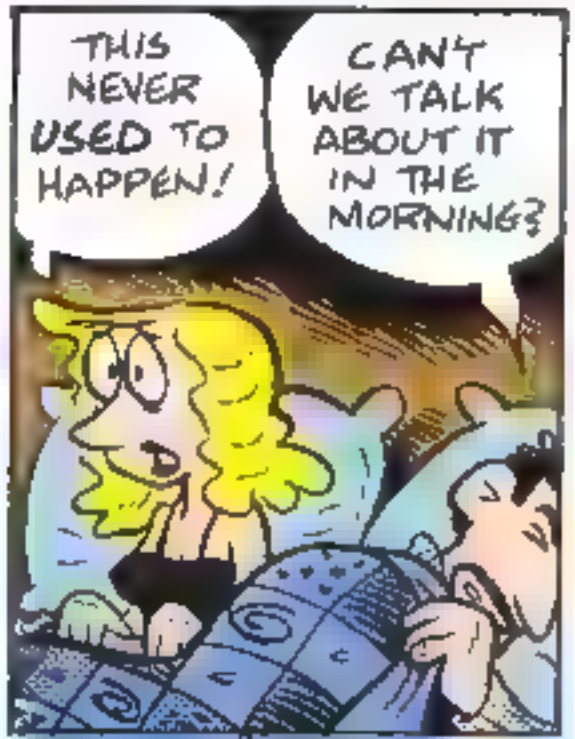
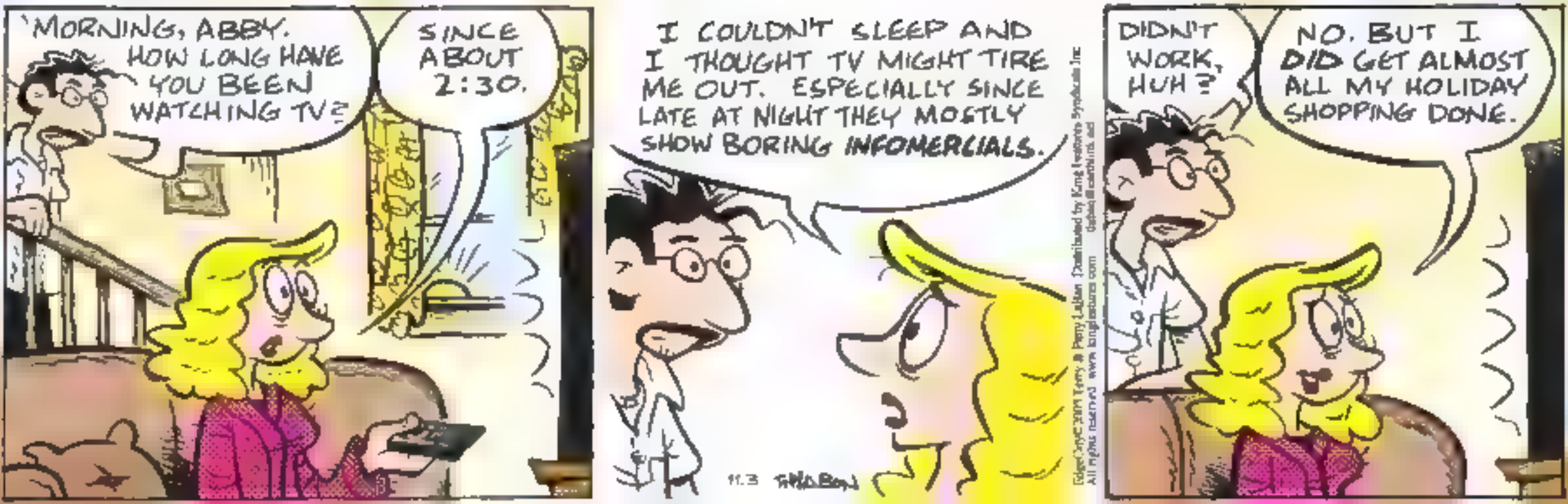

IT'S 1:30, AND I HAVEN'T SLEPT A WINK!
1:30
3:30! I'LL BE EXHAUSTED TOMORROW!
1:30
OH, NO! 5:20 ALREADY?
5:20
IT'S 6:00, ABBY! YOU'D BETTER WAKE UP!
ZZUP!
6:00


WHAT'S WRONG, ABBY?
I'M HAVING TROUBLE SLEEPING AGAIN!

IT'S TERRIBLE! THE MORE I TRY TO GET TO SLEEP, THE MORE AWAKE I FEEL!
11.2


THIS NEVER USED TO HAPPEN!
CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT IT IN THE MORNING?

BY THEN, I'LL BE TOO TIRED!
NNNN


'MORNING, ABBY. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WATCHING TV?
SINCE ABOUT 2:30.
I COULDN'T SLEEP AND I THOUGHT TV MIGHT TIRE ME OUT. ESPECIALLY SINCE LATE AT NIGHT THEY MOSTLY SHOW BORING INFOMERCIALS.
11.3
DIDN'T WORK, HUH?
NO. BUT I DID GET ALMOST ALL MY HOLIDAY SHOPPING DONE.

YOU LOOK TIRED, ABBY.

I'VE HAD TROUBLE **SLEEPING** LATELY, JANICE.

IT HAPPENS TO **ME** SOMETIMES, TOO. TRY A WARM BATH, OR DO RELAXATION EXERCISES, OR DRINK SOME CHAMOMILE TEA!

UM HMMM...

AND DON'T TAKE **NAPS!**

RIGHT! GOOD ADVICE!

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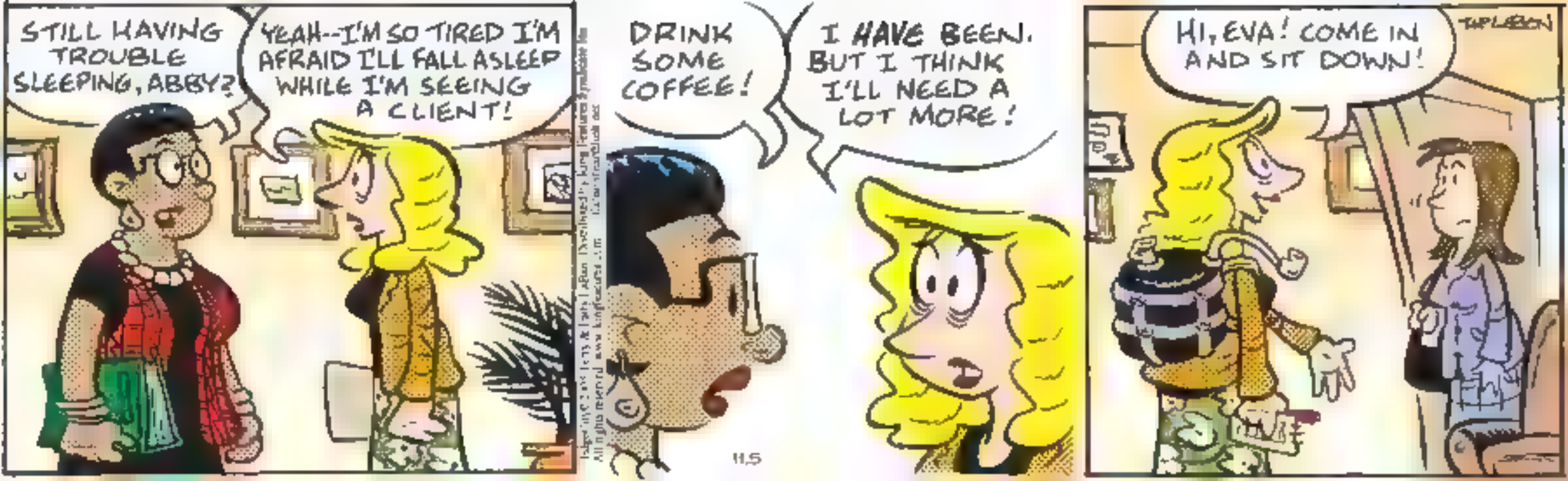
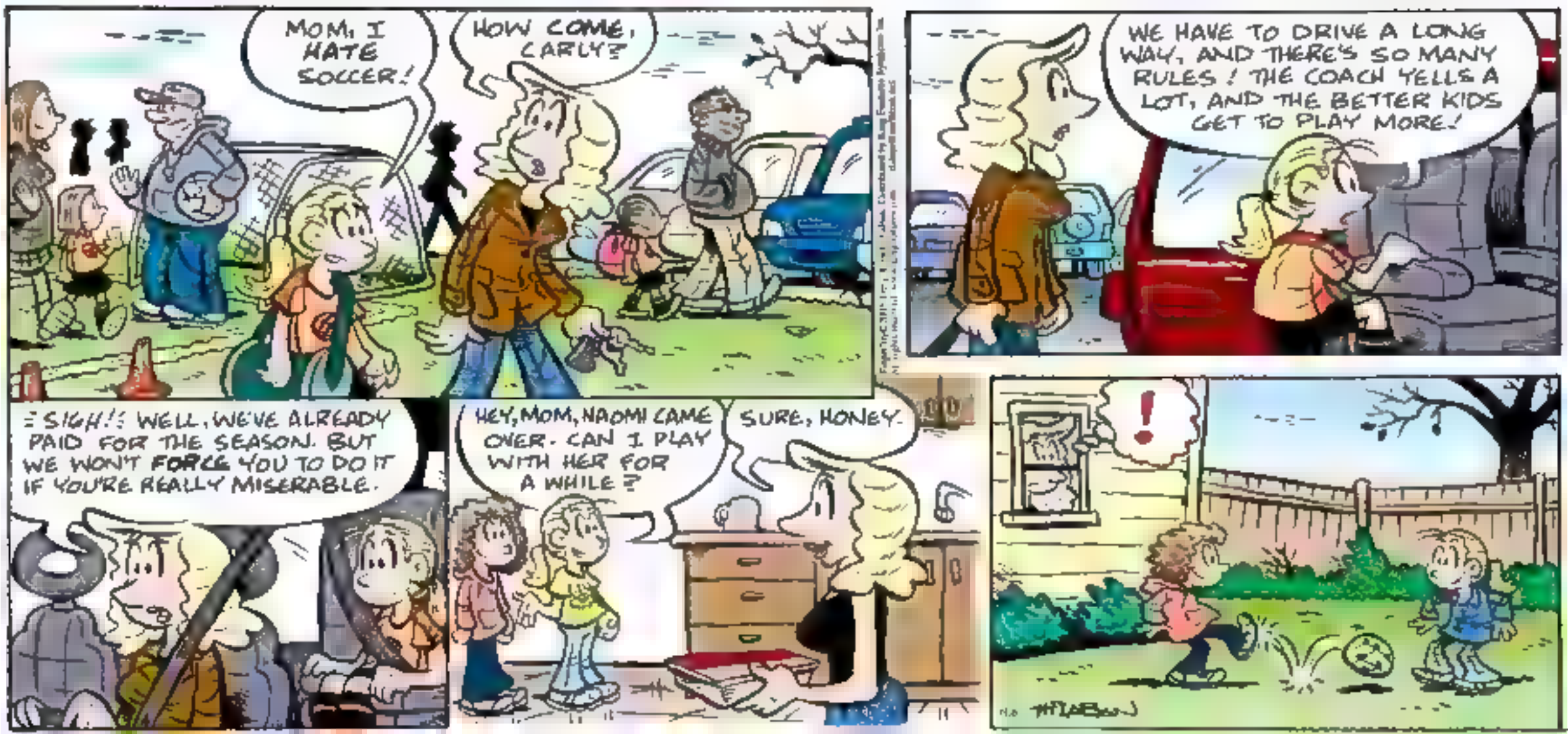
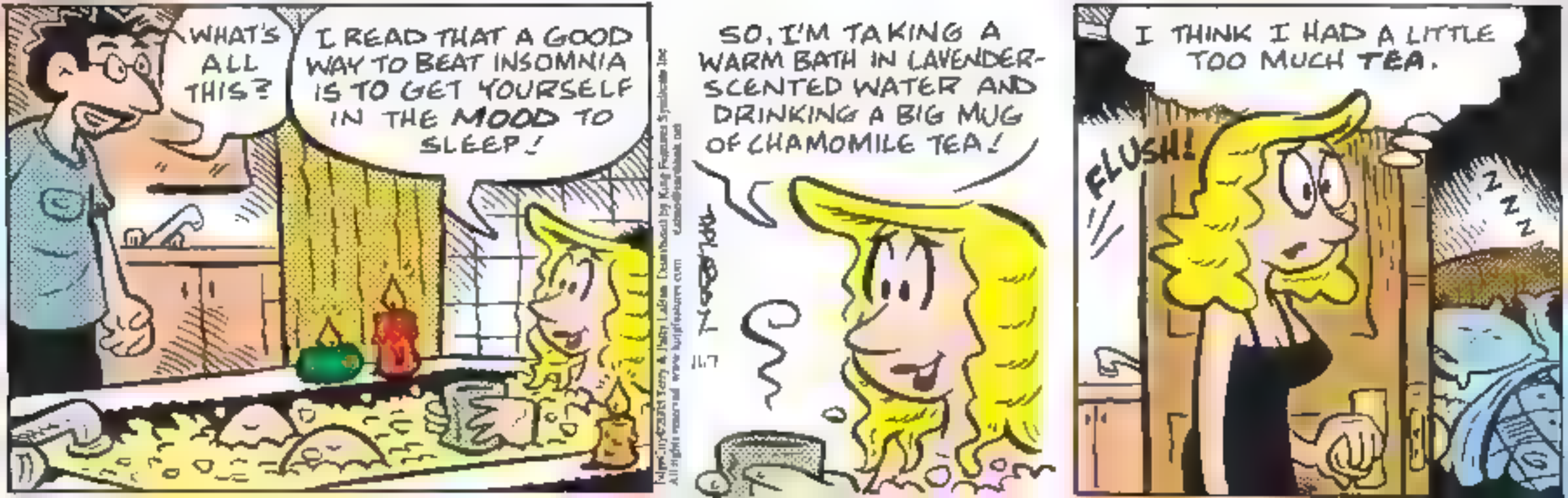
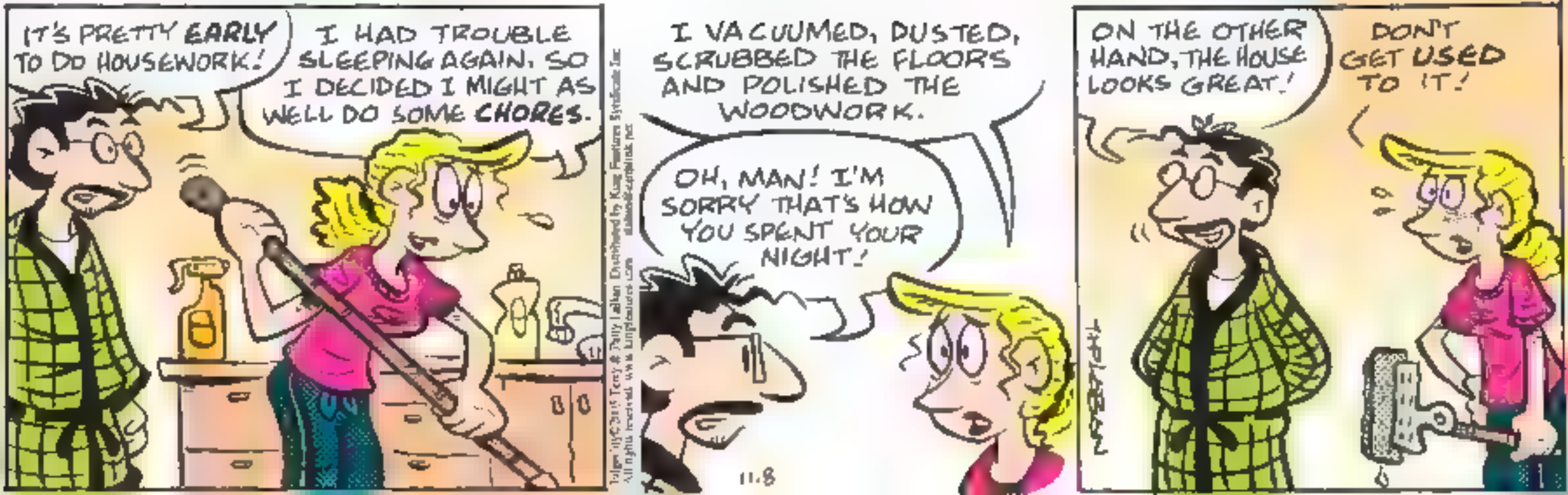
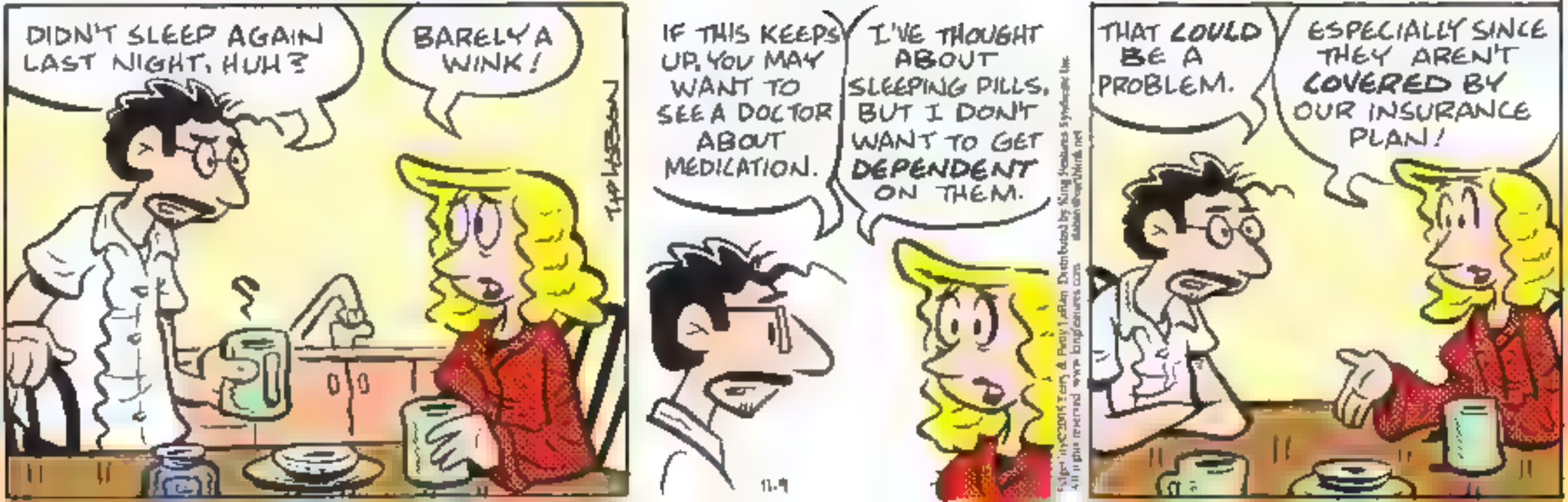
11.4

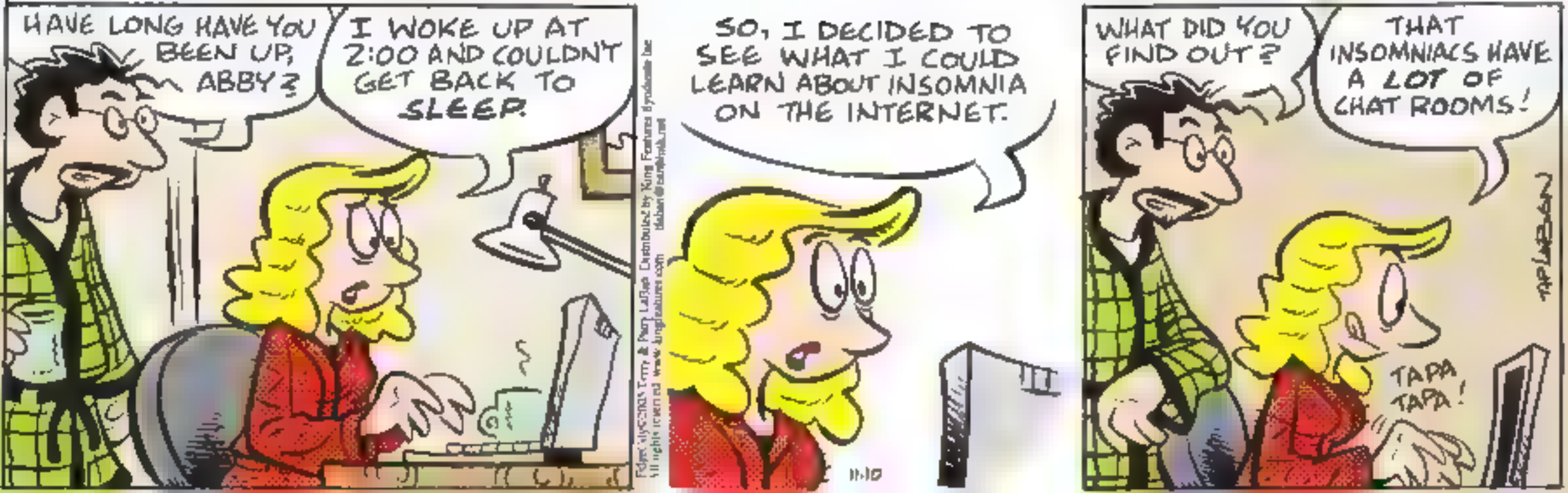

STILL HAVING TROUBLE SLEEPING, ABBY?
YEAH--I'M SO TIRED I'M AFRAID I'LL FALL ASLEEP WHILE I'M SEEING A CLIENT!
DRINK SOME COFFEE!
I HAVE BEEN. BUT I THINK I'LL NEED A LOT MORE!
HI, EVA! COME IN AND SIT DOWN!
TUPLEBON


MOM, I HATE SOCCER!
HOW COME, CARLY?
WE HAVE TO DRIVE A LONG WAY, AND THERE'S SO MANY RULES! THE COACH YELLS A LOT, AND THE BETTER KIDS GET TO PLAY MORE!
=SIGH!= WELL, WE'VE ALREADY PAID FOR THE SEASON. BUT WE WON'T FORCE YOU TO DO IT IF YOU'RE REALLY MISERABLE.
HEY, MOM, NAOMI CAME OVER. CAN I PLAY WITH HER FOR A WHILE?
SURE, HONEY.
!


WHAT'S ALL THIS?
I READ THAT A GOOD WAY TO BEAT INSOMNIA IS TO GET YOURSELF IN THE MOOD TO SLEEP!
SO, I'M TAKING A WARM BATH IN LAVENDER-SCENTED WATER AND DRINKING A BIG MUG OF CHAMOMILE TEA!
I THINK I HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH TEA.
FLUSH!
Z Z Z


IT'S PRETTY EARLY TO DO HOUSEWORK!
I HAD TROUBLE SLEEPING AGAIN, SO I DECIDED I MIGHT AS WELL DO SOME CHORES.
I VACUUMED, DUSTED, SCRUBBED THE FLOORS AND POLISHED THE WOODWORK.
OH, MAN! I'M SORRY THAT'S HOW YOU SPENT YOUR NIGHT!
11-8
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE HOUSE LOOKS GREAT!
DON'T GET USED TO IT!


DIDN'T SLEEP AGAIN LAST NIGHT, HUH?
BARELY A WINK!
IF THIS KEEPS UP, YOU MAY WANT TO SEE A DOCTOR ABOUT MEDICATION.
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT SLEEPING PILLS, BUT I DON'T WANT TO GET DEPENDENT ON THEM.
THAT COULD BE A PROBLEM.
ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY AREN'T COVERED BY OUR INSURANCE PLAN!

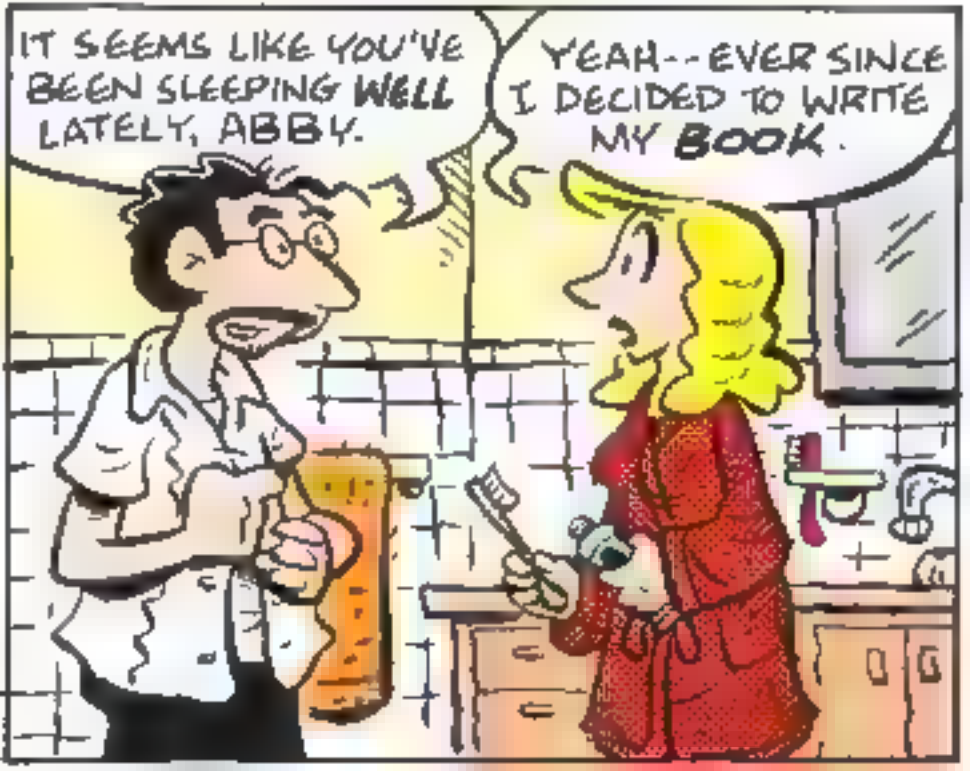

HAVE LONG HAVE YOU BEEN UP, ABBY?
I WOKE UP AT 2:00 AND COULDN'T GET BACK TO SLEEP.
SO, I DECIDED TO SEE WHAT I COULD LEARN ABOUT INSOMNIA ON THE INTERNET.
WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT?
THAT INSOMNIACS HAVE A LOT OF CHAT ROOMS!
TAPA TAPA!

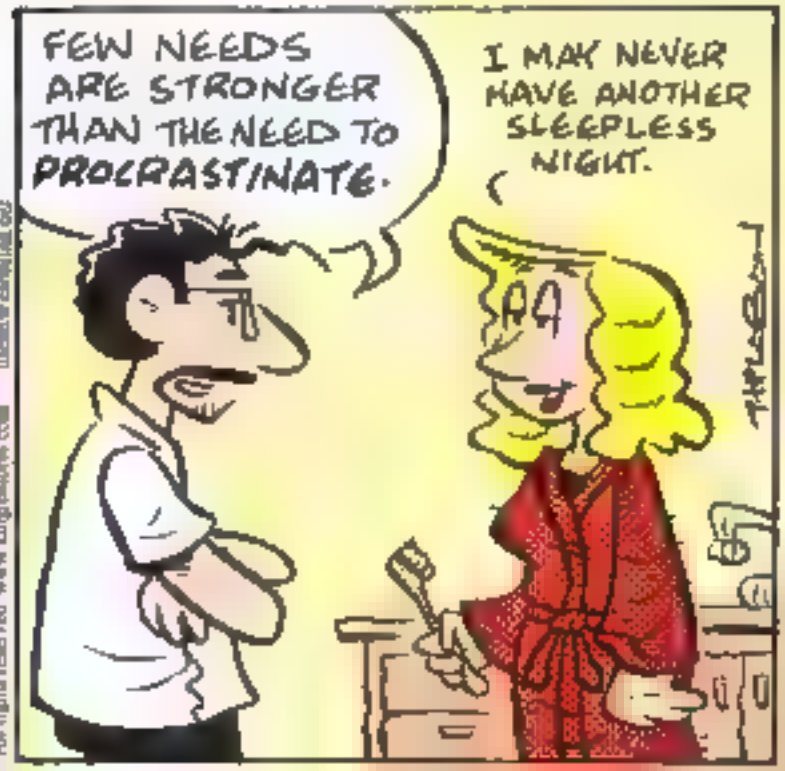
COMING TO BED, ABBY?
WHAT'S THE POINT, LEN? I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP.

AS LONG AS I HAVE INSOMNIA, I MIGHT AS WELL PUT THE TIME TO GOOD USE.
11.11

YOU KNOW THAT BOOK I'VE BEEN WANTING TO WRITE? TONIGHT I'M GOING TO START IT!
YAWN! GOOD LUCK!

Z Z Z Z Z Z Z
TURNBAUGH





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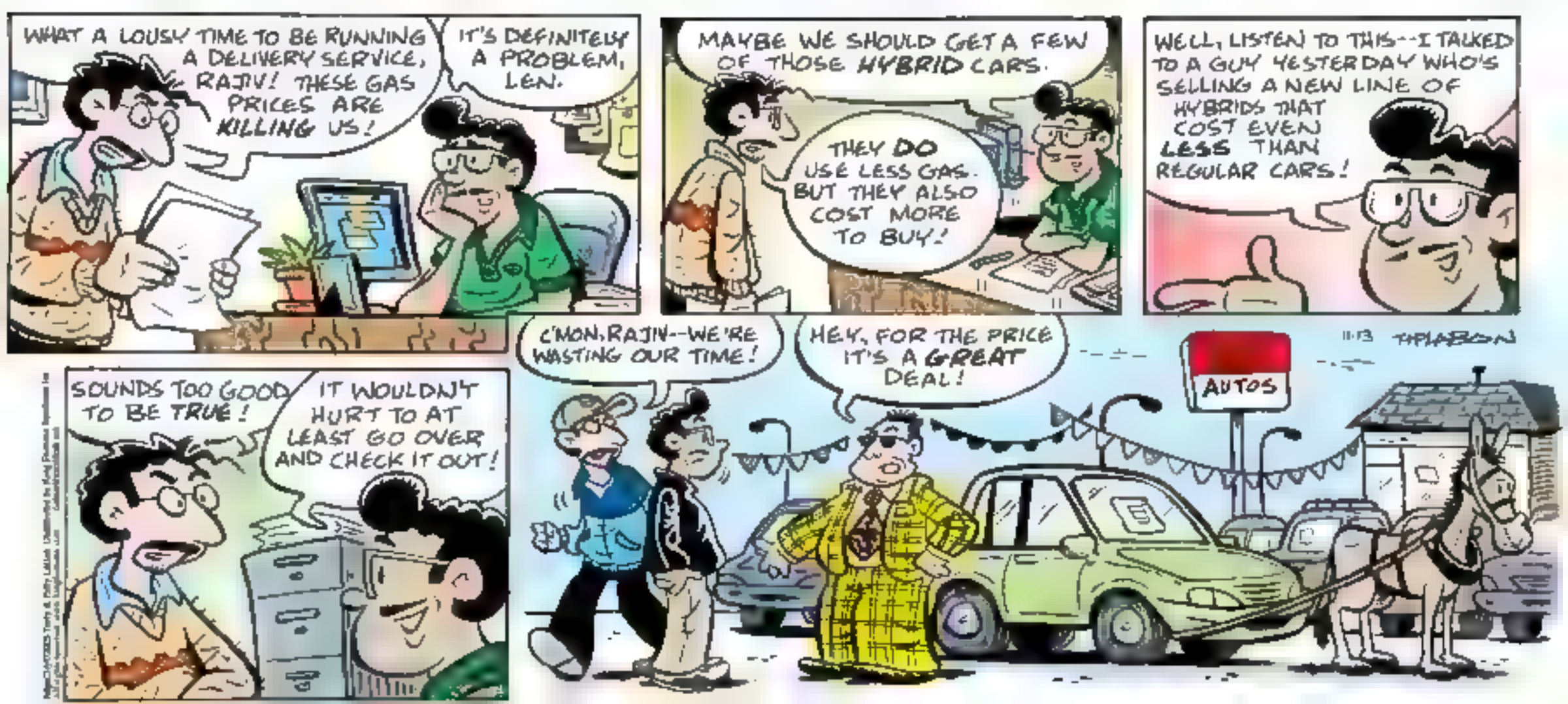
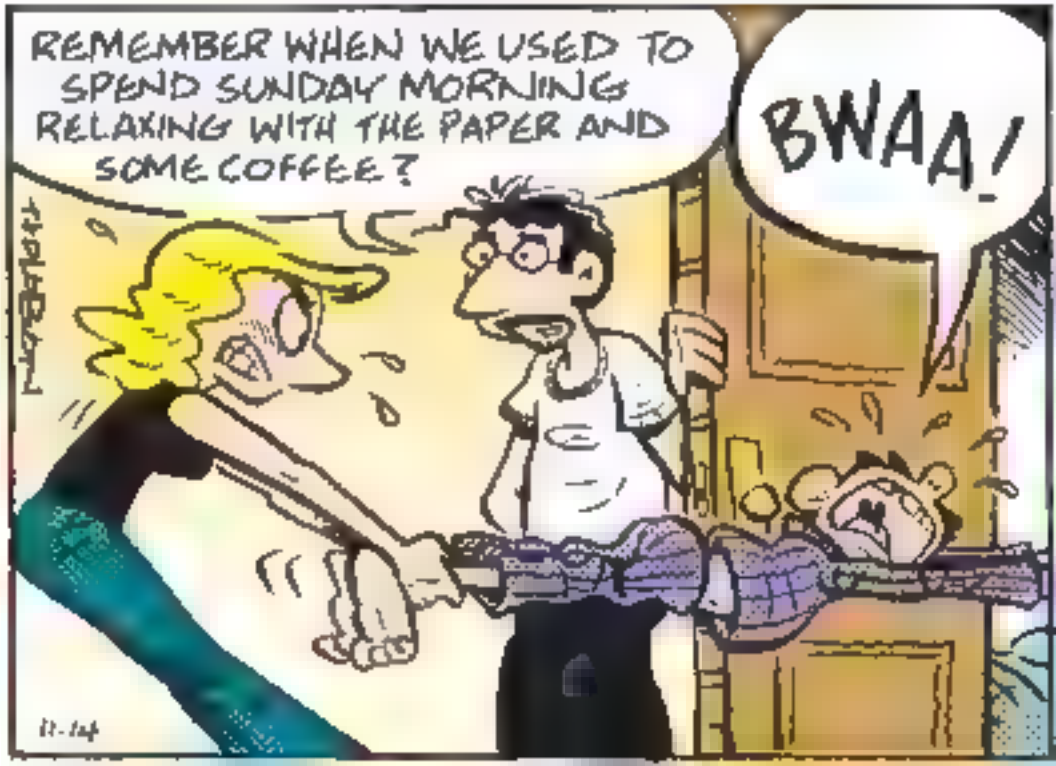
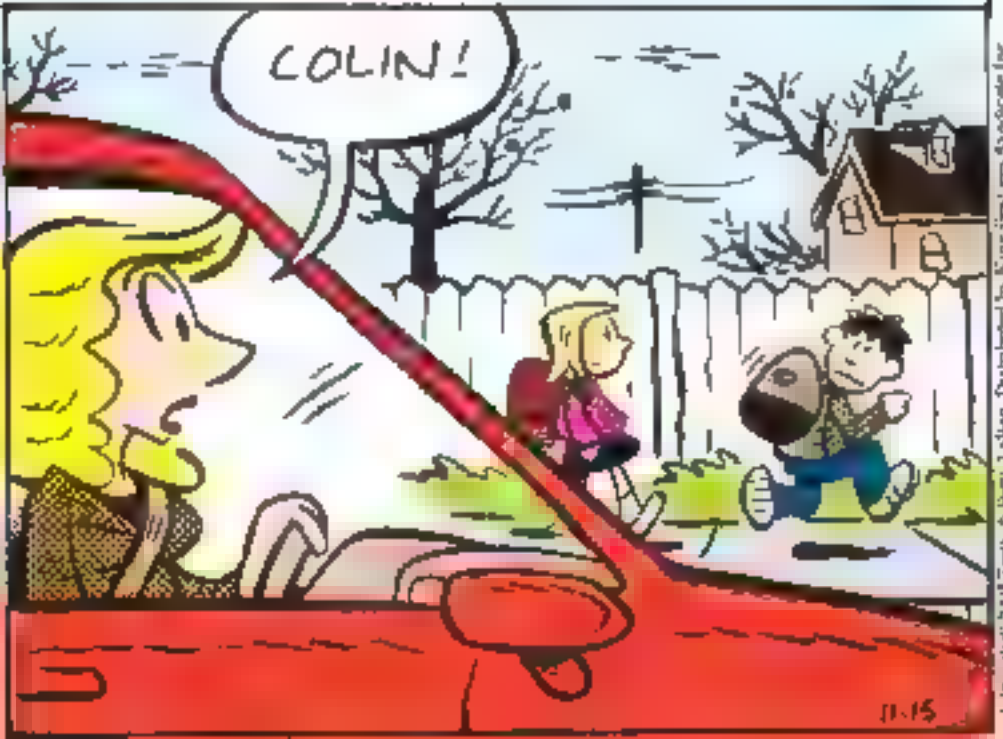
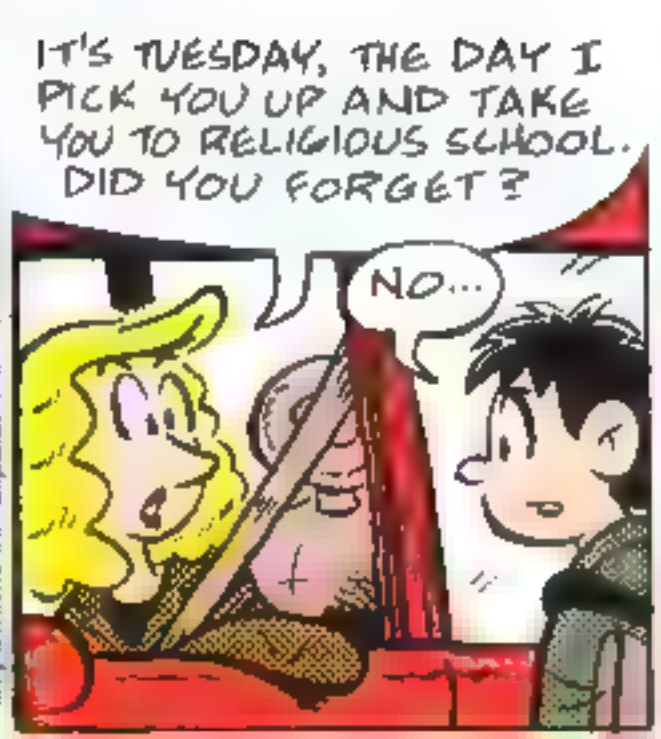

WHAT A LOUSY TIME TO BE RUNNING A DELIVERY SERVICE, RAJIV! THESE GAS PRICES ARE KILLING US!
IT'S DEFINITELY A PROBLEM, LEN.
MAYBE WE SHOULD GET A FEW OF THOSE HYBRID CARS.
THEY DO USE LESS GAS. BUT THEY ALSO COST MORE TO BUY!
WELL, LISTEN TO THIS--I TALKED TO A GUY YESTERDAY WHO'S SELLING A NEW LINE OF HYBRIDS THAT COST EVEN LESS THAN REGULAR CARS!
SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!
IT WOULDN'T HURT TO AT LEAST GO OVER AND CHECK IT OUT!
C'MON, RAJIV--WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME!
HEY, FOR THE PRICE IT'S A GREAT DEAL!
AUTOS
11-13 THPLABON

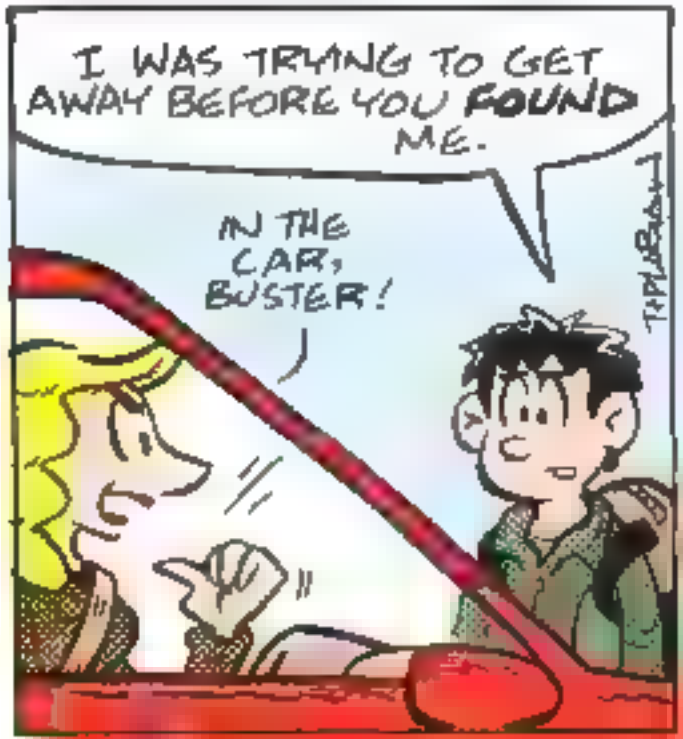
GET UP, COLIN! YOU HAVE TO GO TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL!
I DON'T WANT TO!

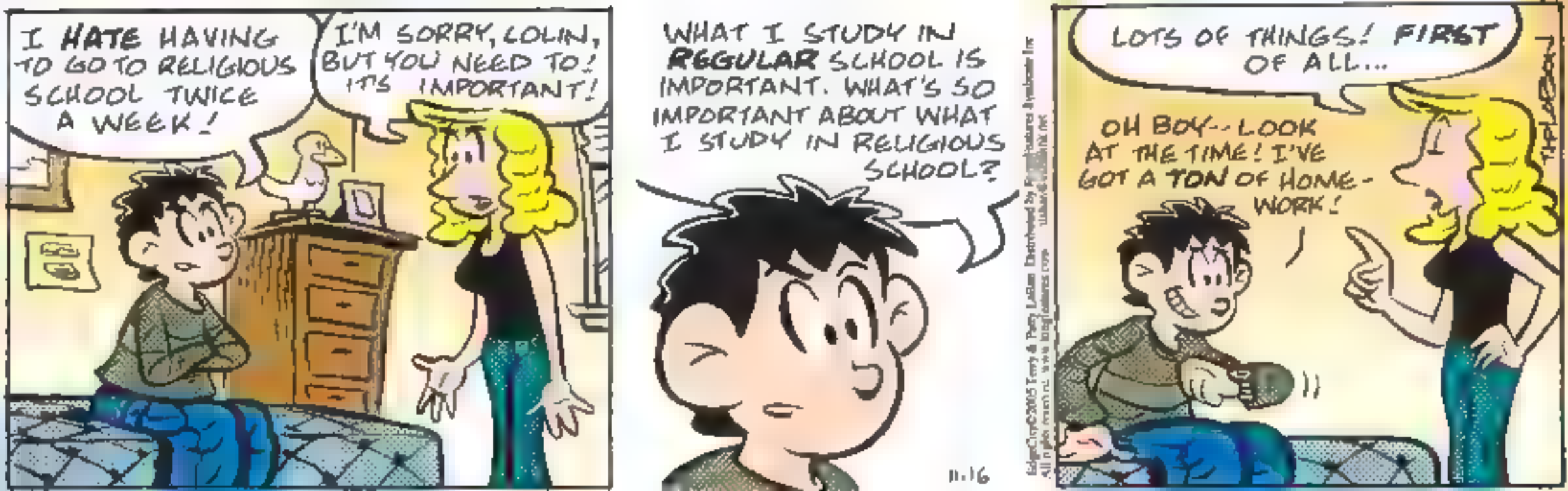
I'M SORRY YOU FEEL THAT WAY! BUT YOU STILL HAVE TO GO!
NO! I WON'T!

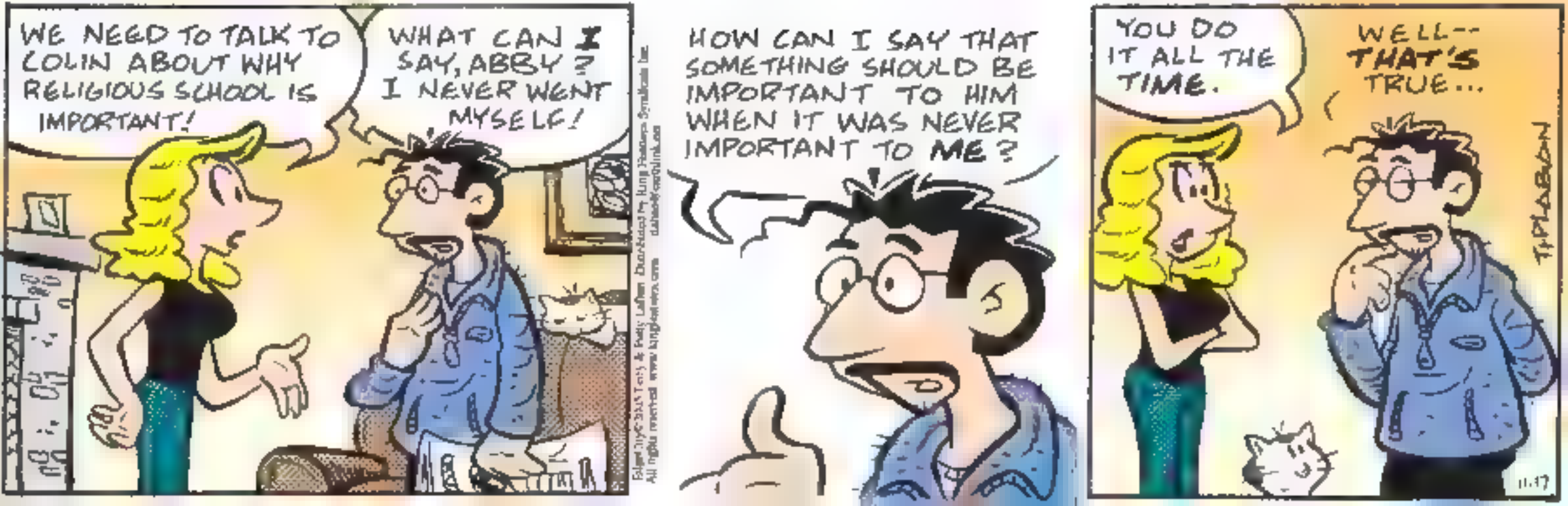

REMEMBER WHEN WE USED TO SPEND SUNDAY MORNING RELAXING WITH THE PAPER AND SOME COFFEE?
BWAA!

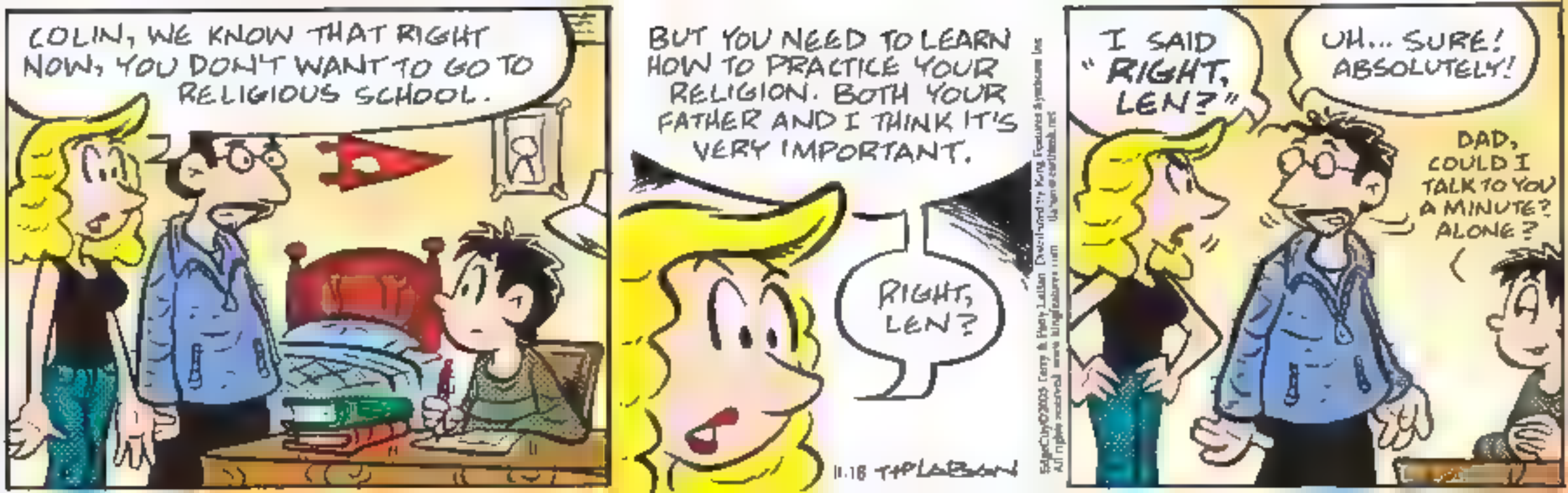

COLIN!
11-15

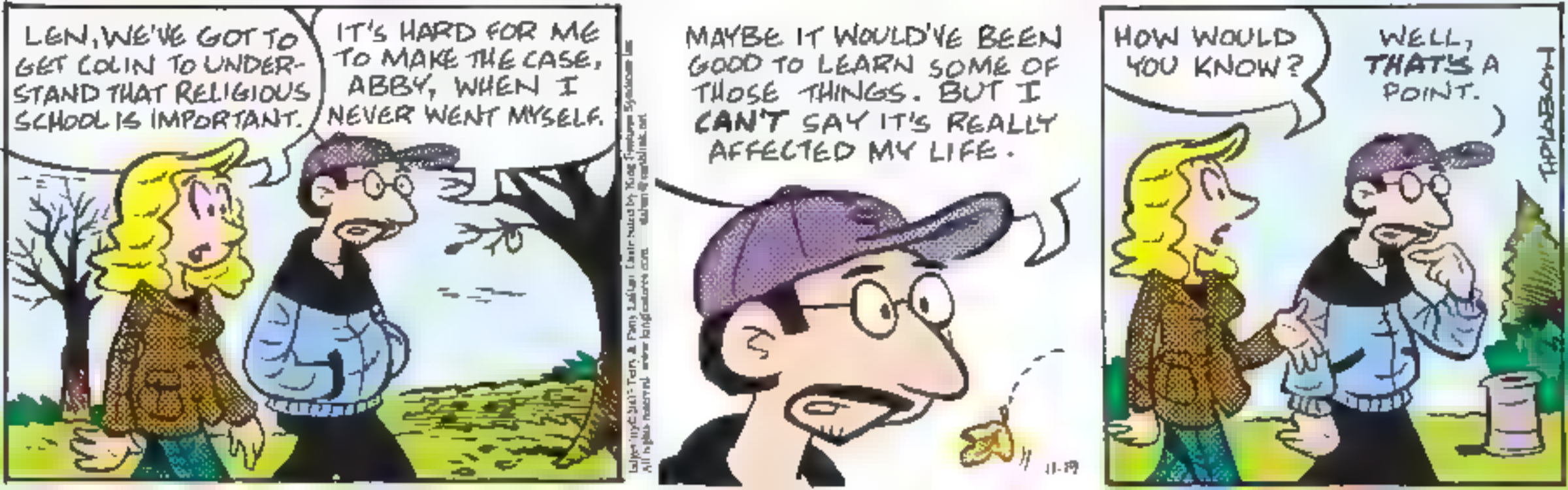

IT'S TUESDAY, THE DAY I PICK YOU UP AND TAKE YOU TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL. DID YOU FORGET?
NO...


I WAS TRYING TO GET AWAY BEFORE YOU FOUND ME.
IN THE CAR, BUSTER!


I HATE HAVING TO GO TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TWICE A WEEK!
I'M SORRY, COLIN, BUT YOU NEED TO! IT'S IMPORTANT!
WHAT I STUDY IN REGULAR SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT. WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT WHAT I STUDY IN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL?
11-16
LOTS OF THINGS! FIRST OF ALL...
OH BOY-- LOOK AT THE TIME! I'VE GOT A TON OF HOMEWORK!
THPLABON

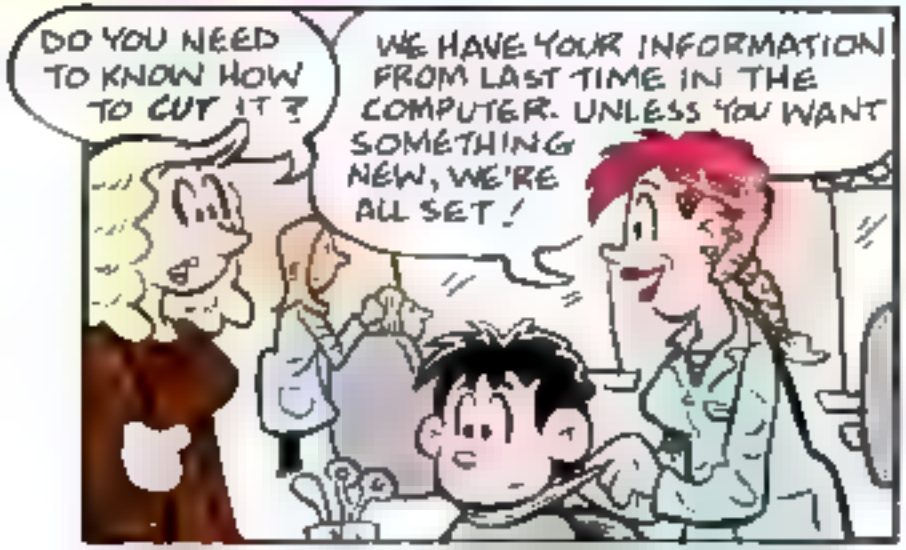

WE NEED TO TALK TO COLIN ABOUT WHY RELIGIOUS SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT!
WHAT CAN I SAY, ABBY? I NEVER WENT MYSELF!
HOW CAN I SAY THAT SOMETHING SHOULD BE IMPORTANT TO HIM WHEN IT WAS NEVER IMPORTANT TO ME?
YOU DO IT ALL THE TIME.
WELL-- THAT'S TRUE...
T. PLABON


COLIN, WE KNOW THAT RIGHT NOW, YOU DON'T WANT TO GO TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL.
BUT YOU NEED TO LEARN HOW TO PRACTICE YOUR RELIGION. BOTH YOUR FATHER AND I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT.
RIGHT, LEN?
I SAID "RIGHT, LEN?"
UH... SURE! ABSOLUTELY!
DAD, COULD I TALK TO YOU A MINUTE? ALONE?

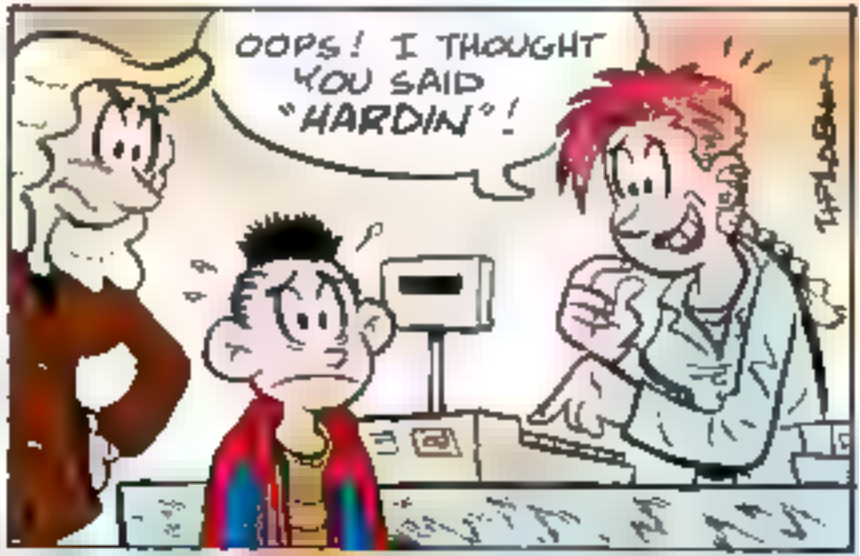

LEN, WE'VE GOT TO GET COLIN TO UNDERSTAND THAT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT.
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO MAKE THE CASE, ABBY, WHEN I NEVER WENT MYSELF.
MAYBE IT WOULD'VE BEEN GOOD TO LEARN SOME OF THOSE THINGS. BUT I CAN'T SAY IT'S REALLY AFFECTED MY LIFE.
11-19
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?
WELL, THAT'S A POINT.

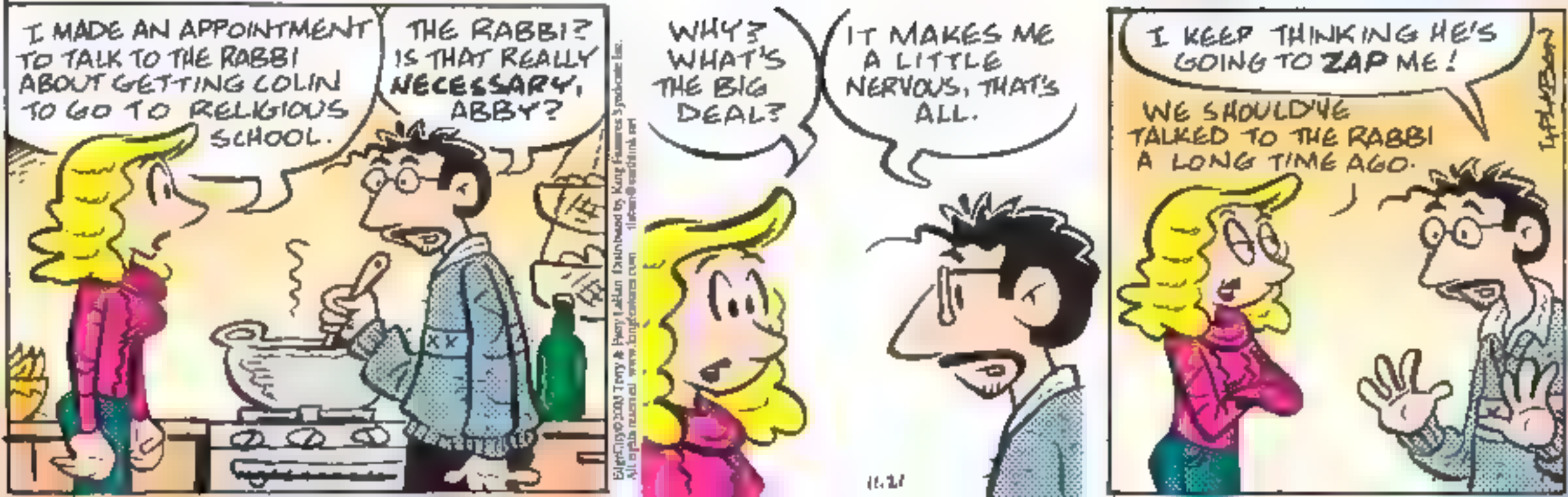
CLIPS INC.
MY SON NEEDS A HAIRCUT.
CERTAINLY! HAS HE BEEN HERE BEFORE?

YES. HIS NAME IS COLIN ARDIN.
HERE HE IS. SIT RIGHT OVER THERE, COLIN.

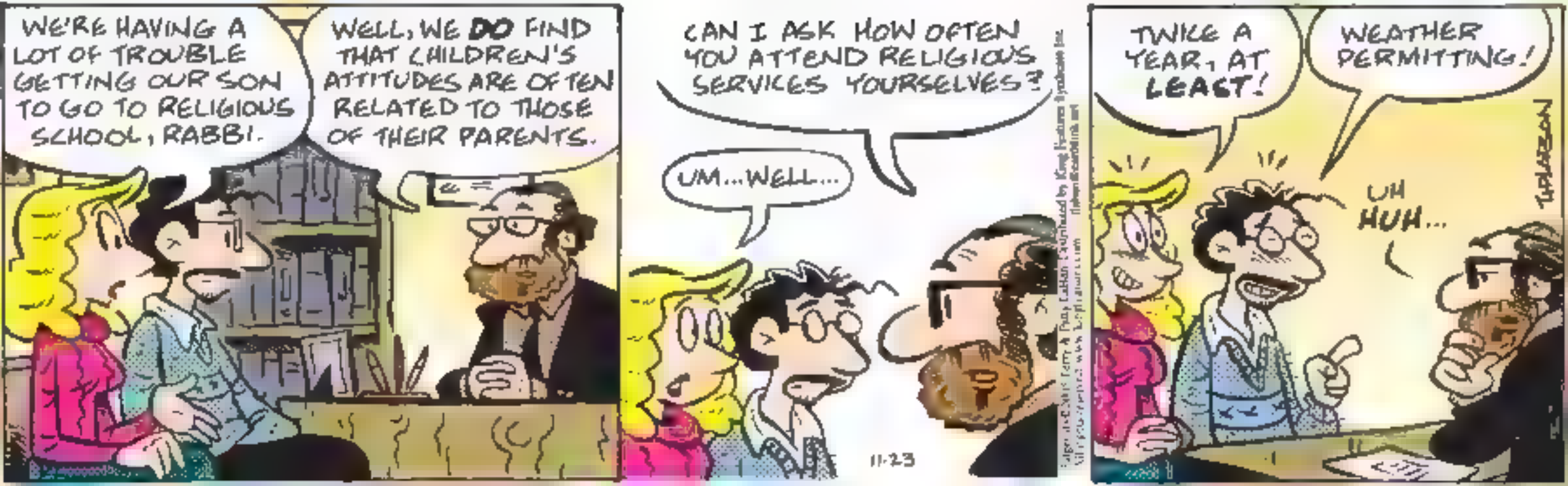

DO YOU NEED TO KNOW HOW TO CUT IT?
WE HAVE YOUR INFORMATION FROM LAST TIME IN THE COMPUTER. UNLESS YOU WANT SOMETHING NEW, WE'RE ALL SET!

THEN IT'S OK IF I RUN TO THE DRUG-STORE?
SURE! SEE YOU IN ABOUT 20 MINUTES.

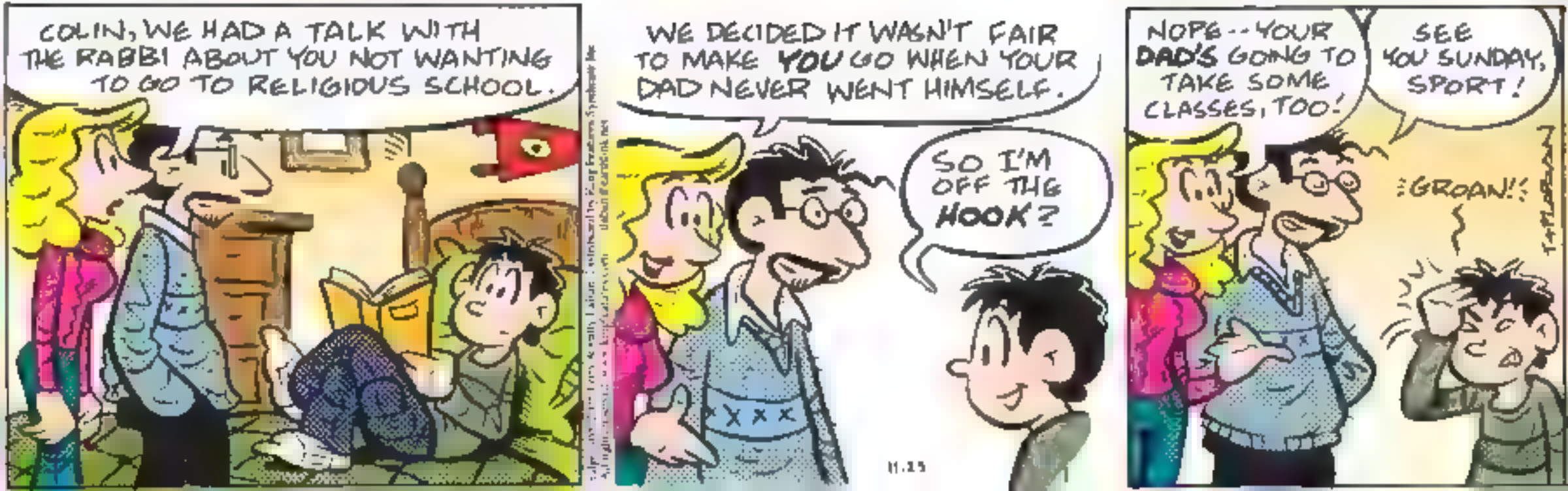

OOPS! I THOUGHT YOU SAID "HARDIN"!

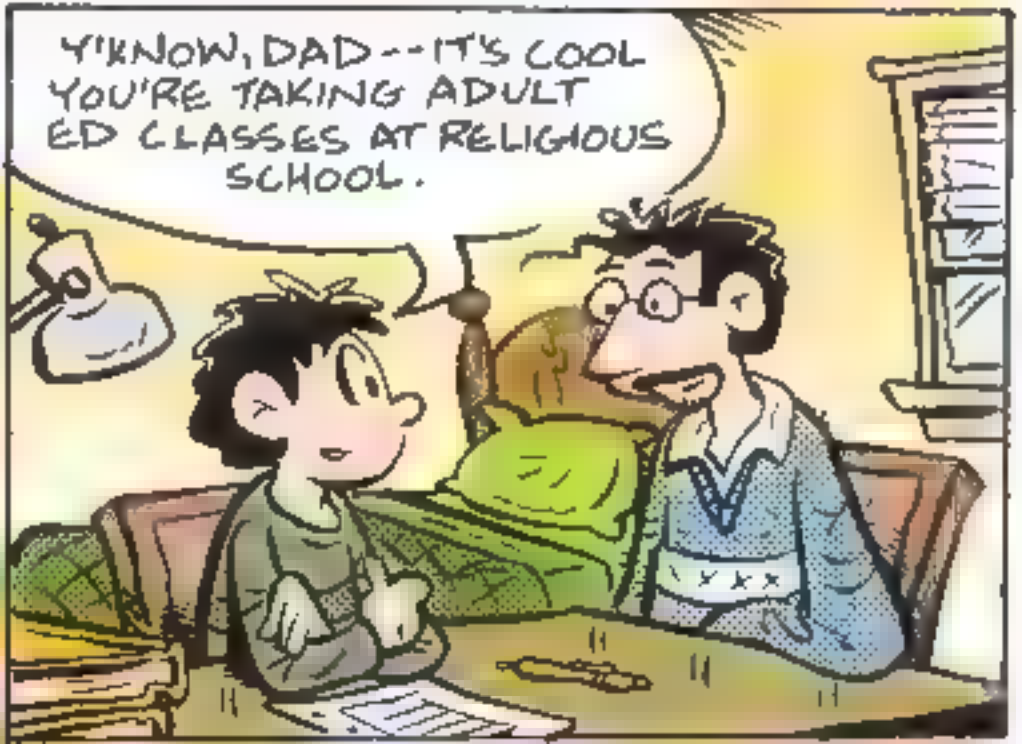

I MADE AN APPOINTMENT TO TALK TO THE RABBI ABOUT GETTING COLIN TO GO TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL.
THE RABBI? IS THAT REALLY NECESSARY, ABBY?
WHY? WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
IT MAKES ME A LITTLE NERVOUS, THAT'S ALL.
I KEEP THINKING HE'S GOING TO ZAP ME!
WE SHOULD'VE TALKED TO THE RABBI A LONG TIME AGO.

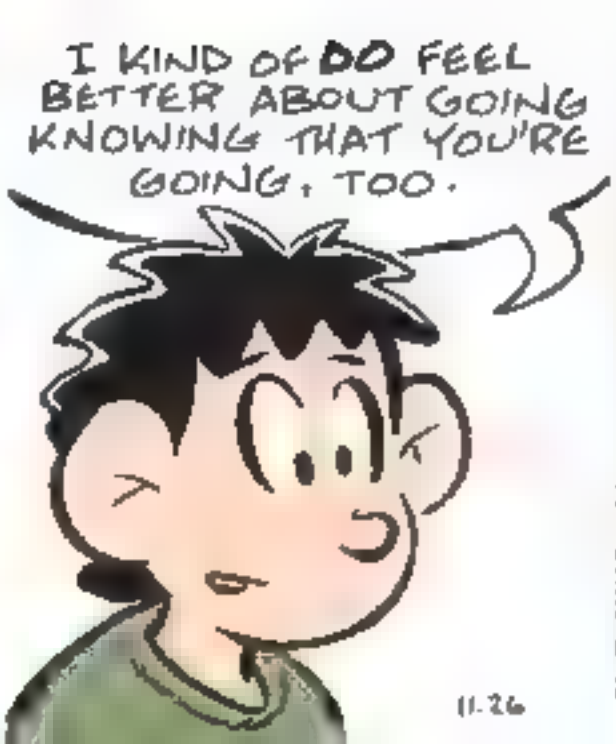
SO, ABBY AND LEN. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
IT'S OUR SON, COLIN, RABBI. HE'S VERY RELUCTANT TO GO TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL.
HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE. UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR PROBLEM IS A COMMON ONE.
SO--WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?
IF THERE WAS AN EASY ANSWER, IT WOULDN'T BE SO COMMON!
THAT'S A POINT...
11-22


WE'RE HAVING A LOT OF TROUBLE GETTING OUR SON TO GO TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, RABBI.
WELL, WE DO FIND THAT CHILDREN'S ATTITUDES ARE OFTEN RELATED TO THOSE OF THEIR PARENTS.
CAN I ASK HOW OFTEN YOU ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES YOURSELVES?
UM...WELL...
11-23
TWICE A YEAR, AT LEAST!
WEATHER PERMITTING!
UH HUH...
TUPPERMAN

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL IS GREAT. BUT IF RELIGION ISN'T IMPORTANT TO YOU, IT WON'T BE IMPORTANT TO COLIN.
I SEE YOUR POINT, RABBI.
BUT I DIDN'T GO TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL AS A KID. IT'S HARD WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
WELL, WE HAVE LOTS OF ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES. MAYBE COLIN WOULD FEEL DIFFERENTLY IF HE SAW YOU LEARNING, TOO.
11-24
I SHOULD CONVINCE MY SON TO GO TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BY GOING MYSELF?!
IT DOES MAKE SENSE, DOESN'T IT?
MMMMM


COLIN, WE HAD A TALK WITH THE RABBI ABOUT YOU NOT WANTING TO GO TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL.
WE DECIDED IT WASN'T FAIR TO MAKE YOU GO WHEN YOUR DAD NEVER WENT HIMSELF.
SO I'M OFF THE HOOK?
NOPE -- YOUR DAD'S GOING TO TAKE SOME CLASSES, TOO!
SEE YOU SUNDAY, SPORT!
:GROAN!:





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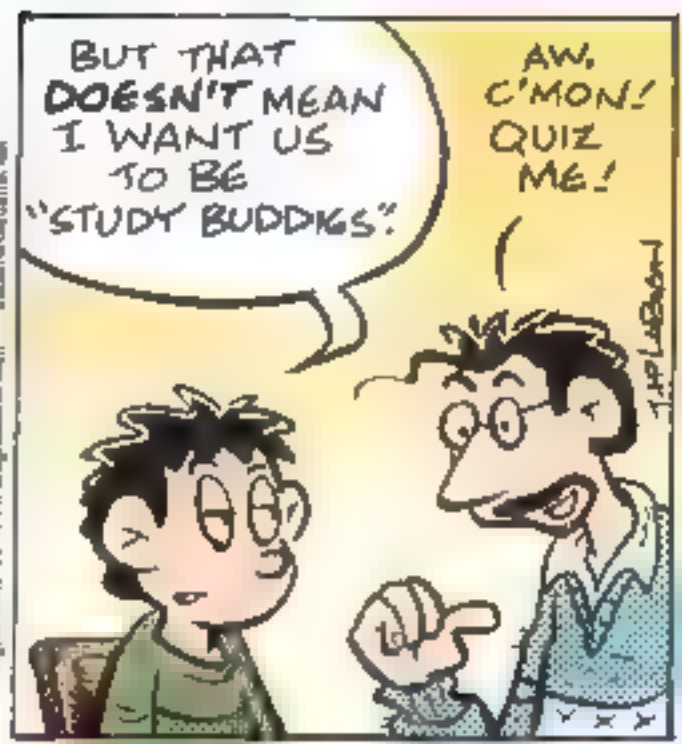
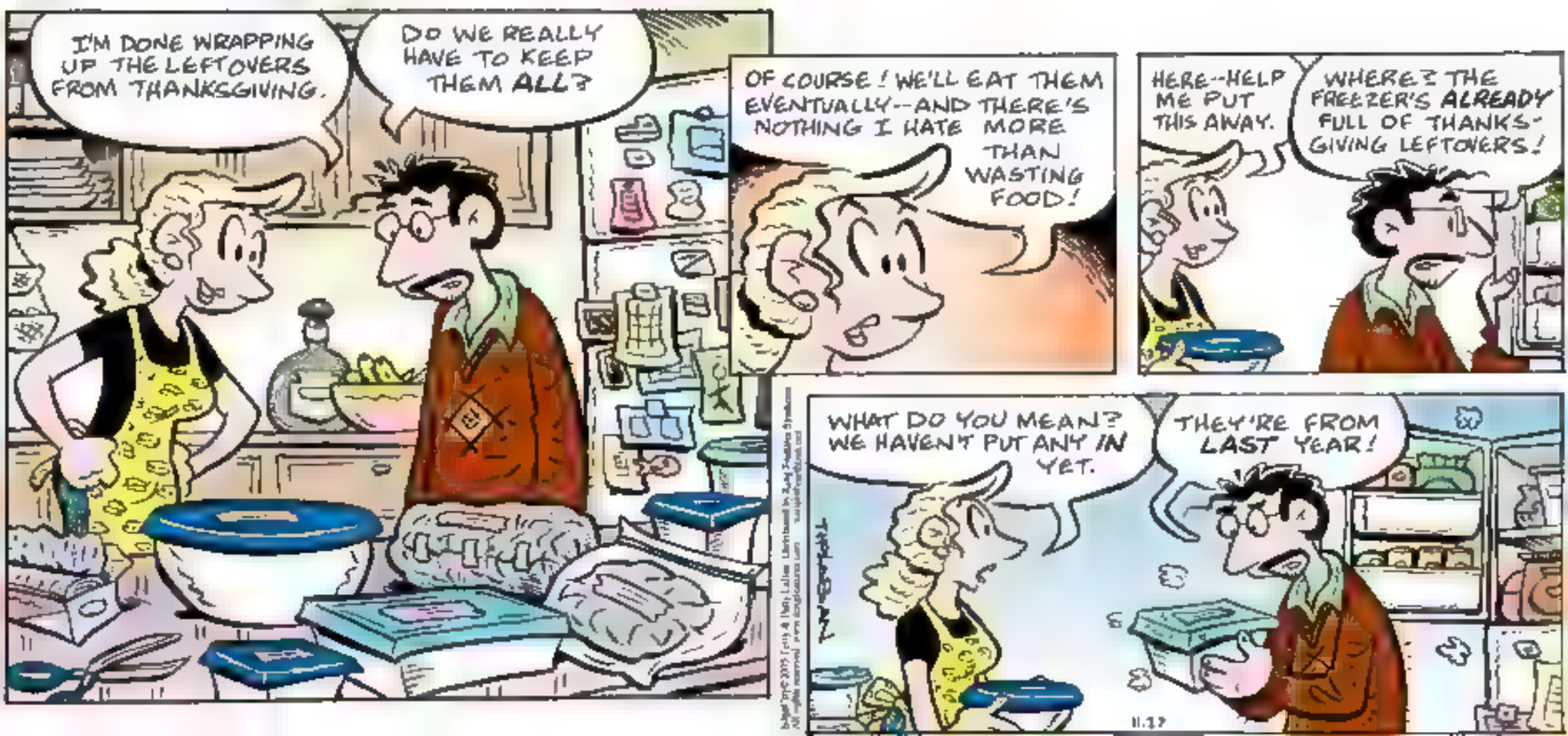
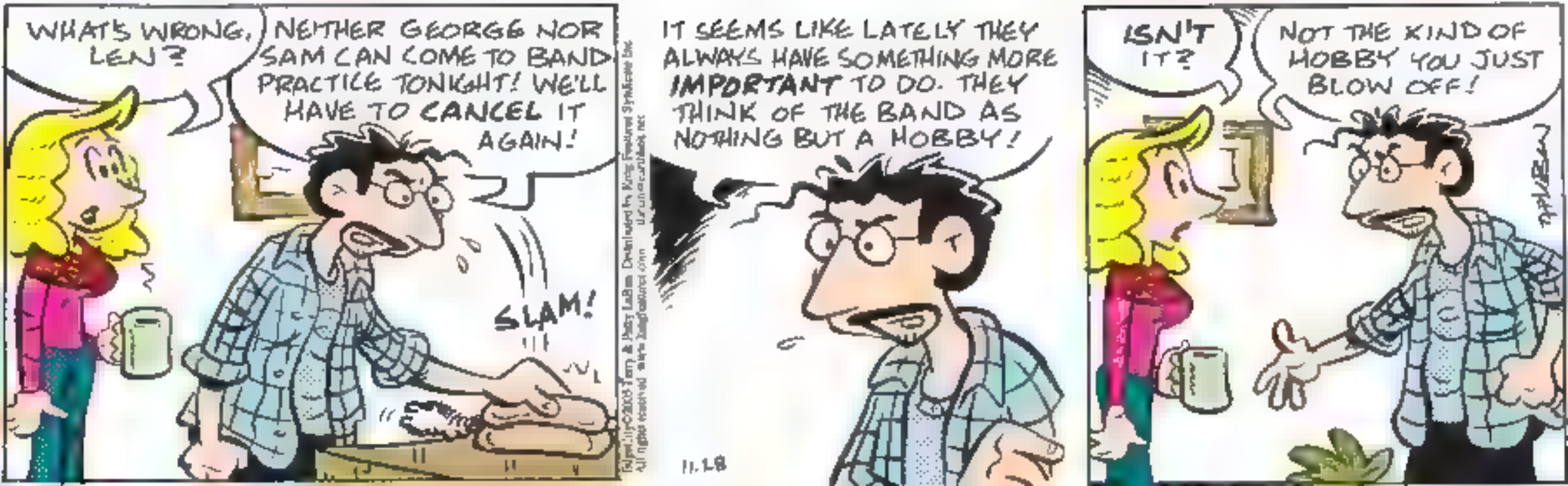
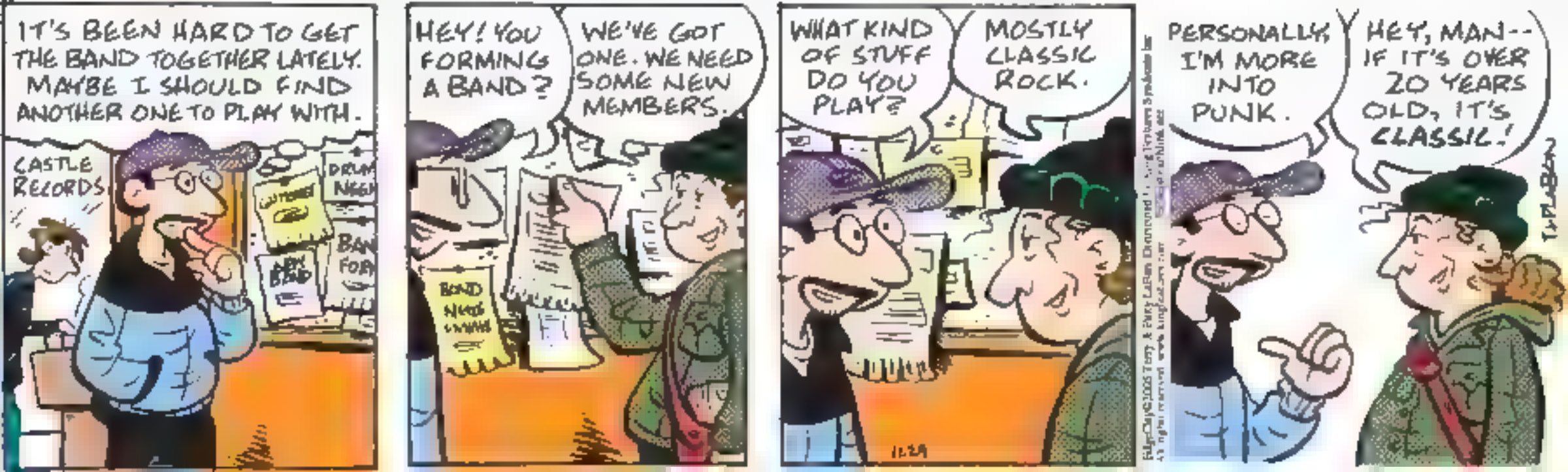
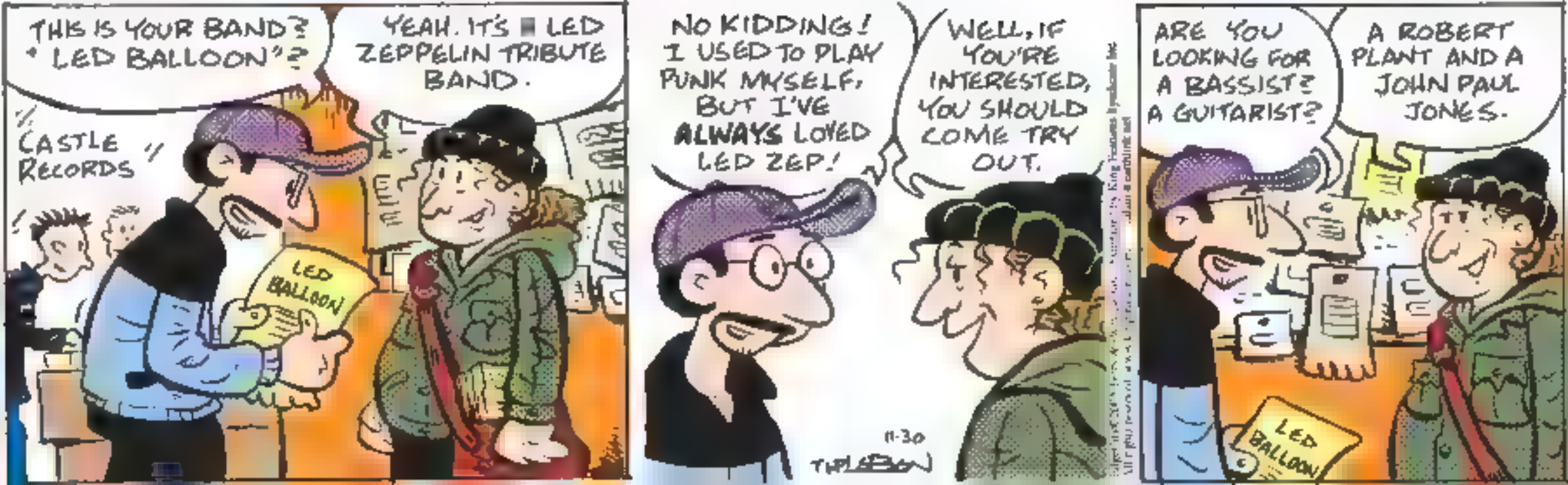
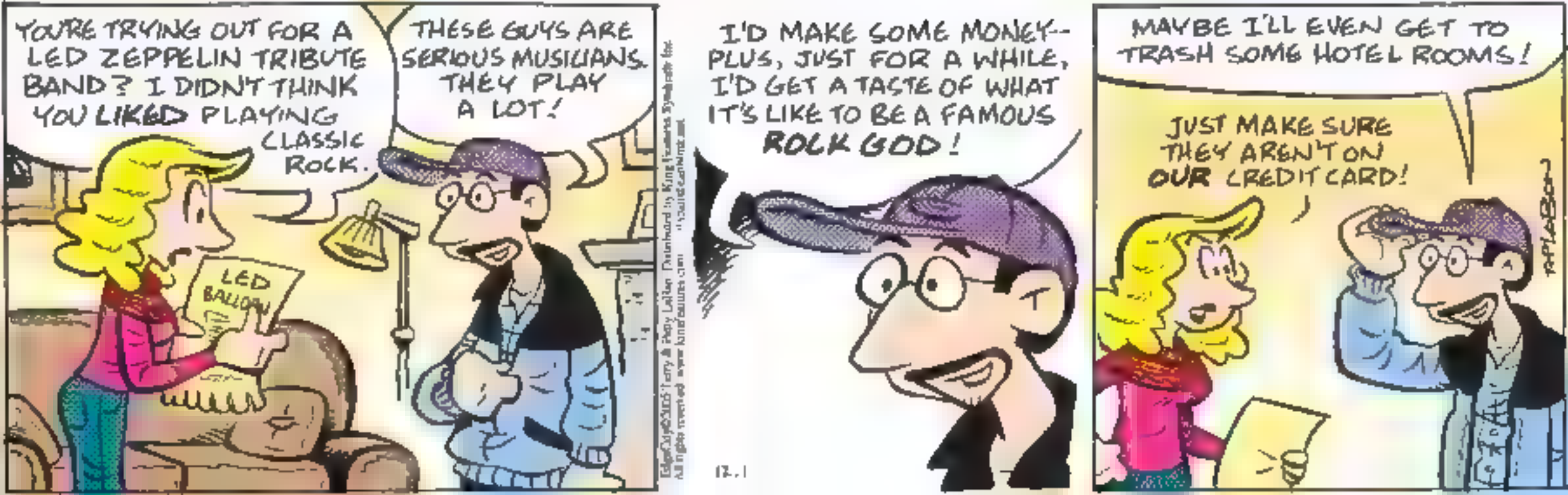


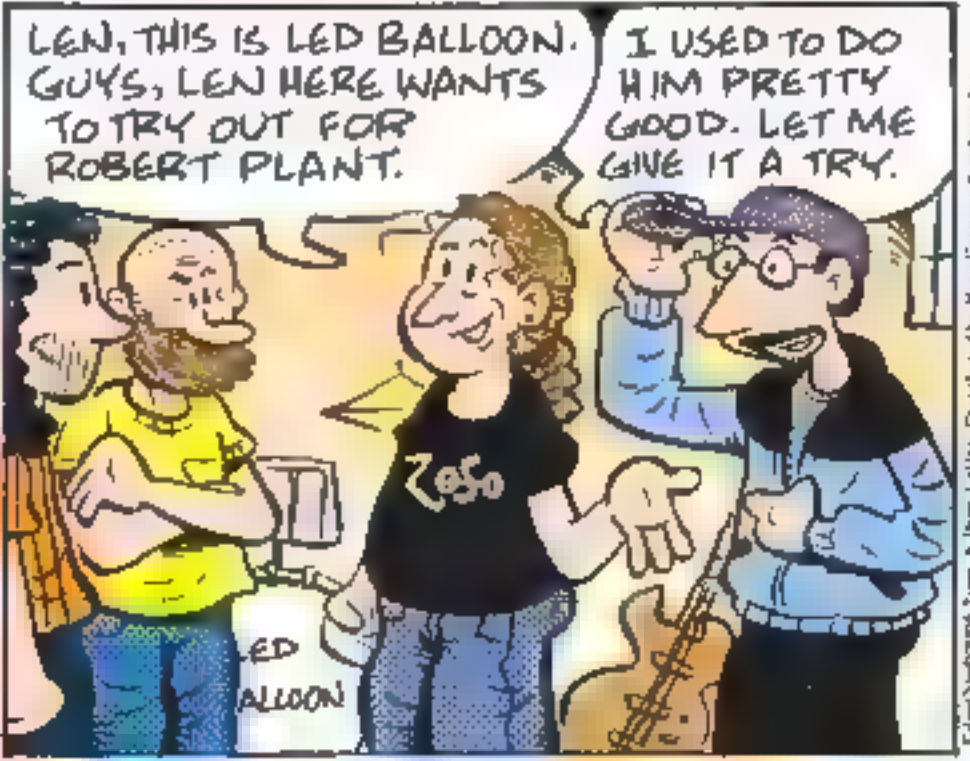

I'M DONE WRAPPING UP THE LEFTOVERS FROM THANKSGIVING.
DO WE REALLY HAVE TO KEEP THEM ALL?
OF COURSE! WE'LL EAT THEM EVENTUALLY--AND THERE'S NOTHING I HATE MORE THAN WASTING FOOD!
HERE--HELP ME PUT THIS AWAY.
WHERE? THE FREEZER'S ALREADY FULL OF THANKSGIVING LEFTOVERS!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WE HAVEN'T PUT ANY IN YET.
THEY'RE FROM LAST YEAR!
11.17


WHAT'S WRONG, LEN?
NEITHER GEORGE NOR SAM CAN COME TO BAND PRACTICE TONIGHT! WE'LL HAVE TO CANCEL IT AGAIN!
SLAM!
IT SEEMS LIKE LATELY THEY ALWAYS HAVE SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO DO. THEY THINK OF THE BAND AS NOTHING BUT A HOBBY!
11.28
ISN'T IT?
NOT THE KIND OF HOBBY YOU JUST BLOW OFF!


IT'S BEEN HARD TO GET THE BAND TOGETHER LATELY. MAYBE I SHOULD FIND ANOTHER ONE TO PLAY WITH.
CASTLE RECORDS
HEY! YOU FORMING A BAND?
WE'VE GOT ONE. WE NEED SOME NEW MEMBERS.
WHAT KIND OF STUFF DO YOU PLAY?
MOSTLY CLASSIC ROCK.
PERSONALLY, I'M MORE INTO PUNK.
HEY, MAN-- IF IT'S OVER 20 YEARS OLD, IT'S CLASSIC!


THIS IS YOUR BAND? "LED BALLOON"?
YEAH. IT'S A LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE BAND.
CASTLE RECORDS
LED BALLOON
NO KIDDING! I USED TO PLAY PUNK MYSELF, BUT I'VE ALWAYS LOVED LED ZEP!
WELL, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, YOU SHOULD COME TRY OUT.
11-30
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A BASSIST? A GUITARIST?
A ROBERT PLANT AND A JOHN PAUL JONES.
LED BALLOON


YOU'RE TRYING OUT FOR A LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE BAND? I DIDN'T THINK YOU LIKED PLAYING CLASSIC ROCK.
LED BALLOON
THESE GUYS ARE SERIOUS MUSICIANS. THEY PLAY A LOT!
I'D MAKE SOME MONEY-- PLUS, JUST FOR A WHILE, I'D GET A TASTE OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A FAMOUS ROCK GOD!
MAYBE I'LL EVEN GET TO TRASH SOME HOTEL ROOMS!
JUST MAKE SURE THEY AREN'T ON OUR CREDIT CARD!



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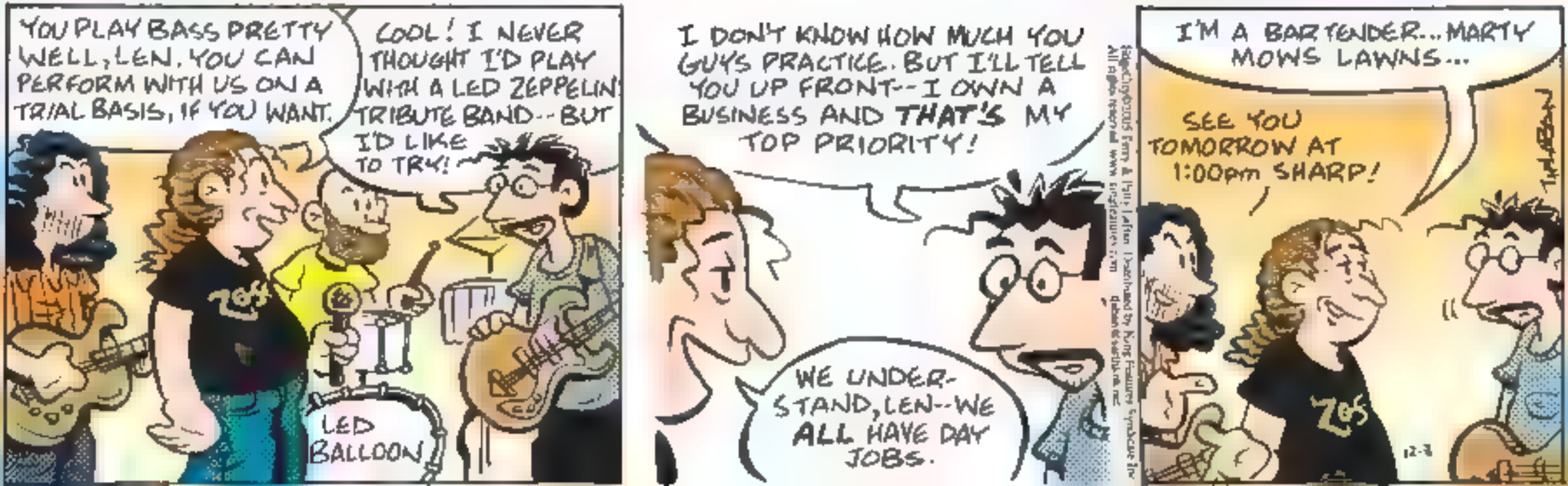
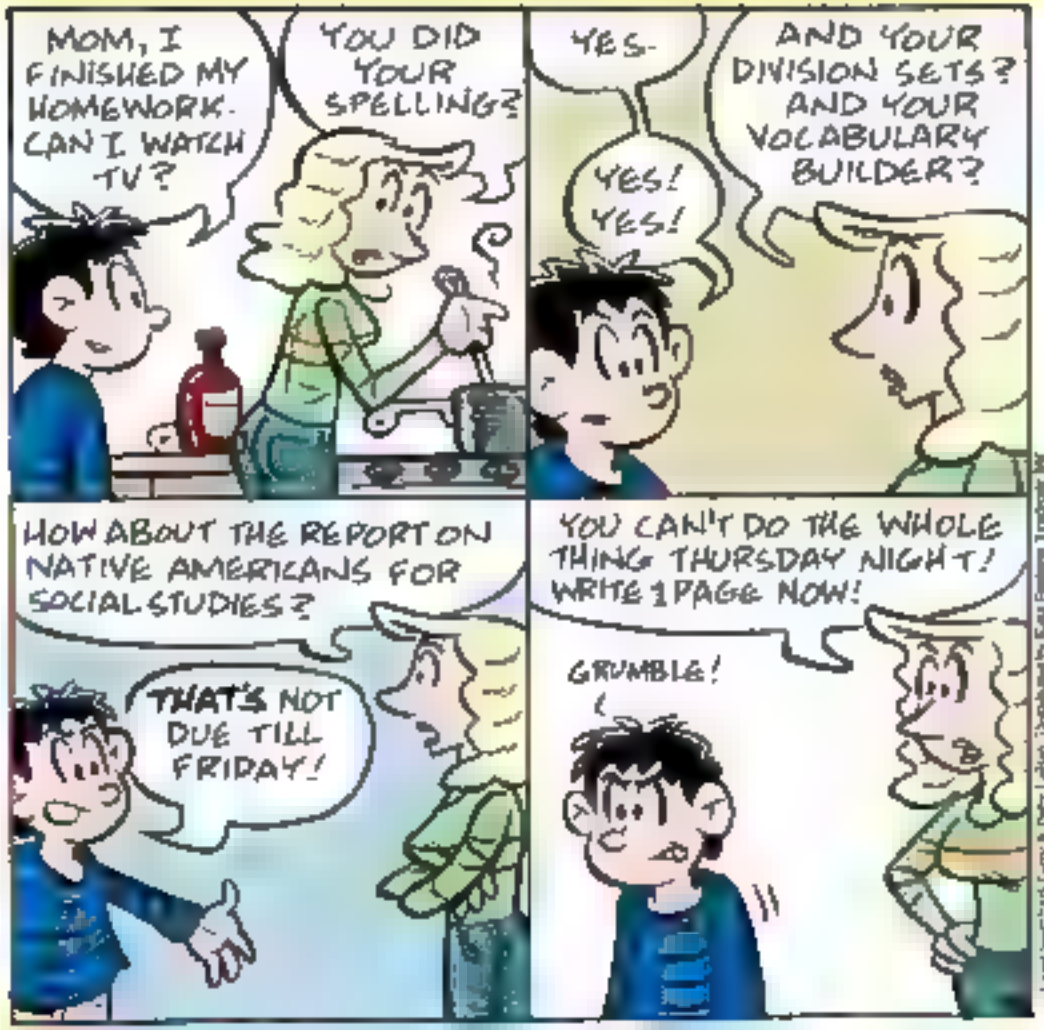

YOU PLAY BASS PRETTY WELL, LEN. YOU CAN PERFORM WITH US ON A TRIAL BASIS, IF YOU WANT.
COOL! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D PLAY WITH A LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE BAND--BUT I'D LIKE TO TRY!
LED BALLOON
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH YOU GUYS PRACTICE. BUT I'LL TELL YOU UP FRONT--I OWN A BUSINESS AND THAT'S MY TOP PRIORITY!
WE UNDER-STAND, LEN--WE ALL HAVE DAY JOBS.
I'M A BARTENDER... MARTY MOWS LAWNS...
SEE YOU TOMORROW AT 1:00pm SHARP!

PARENTING STYLES

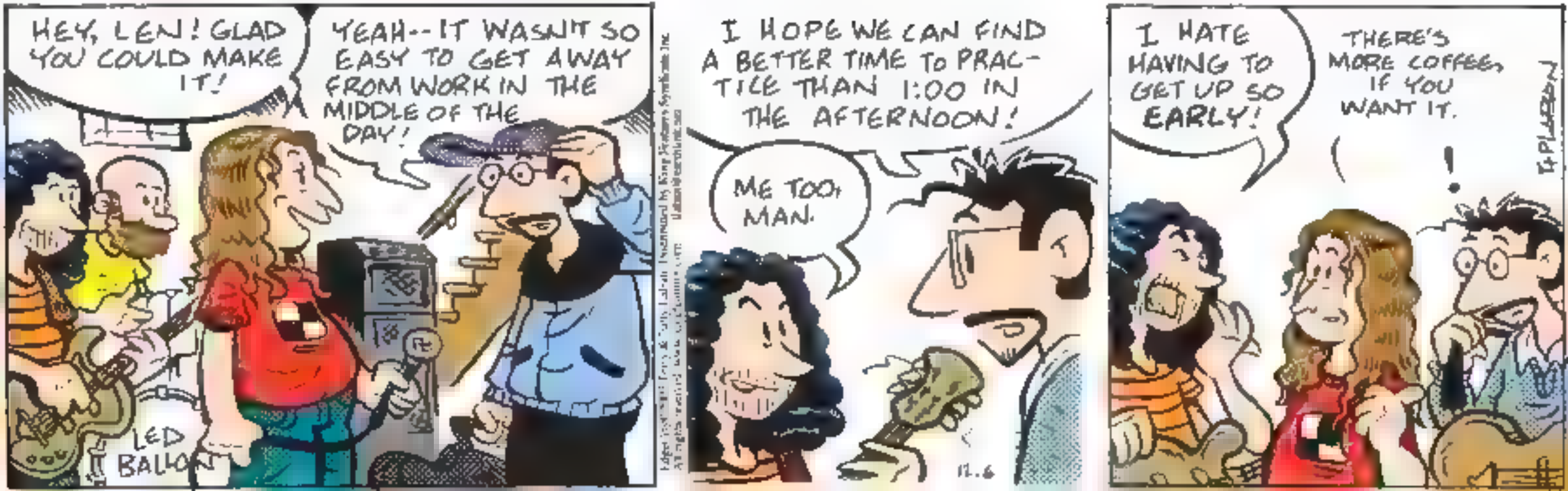
#1 HOMEWORK

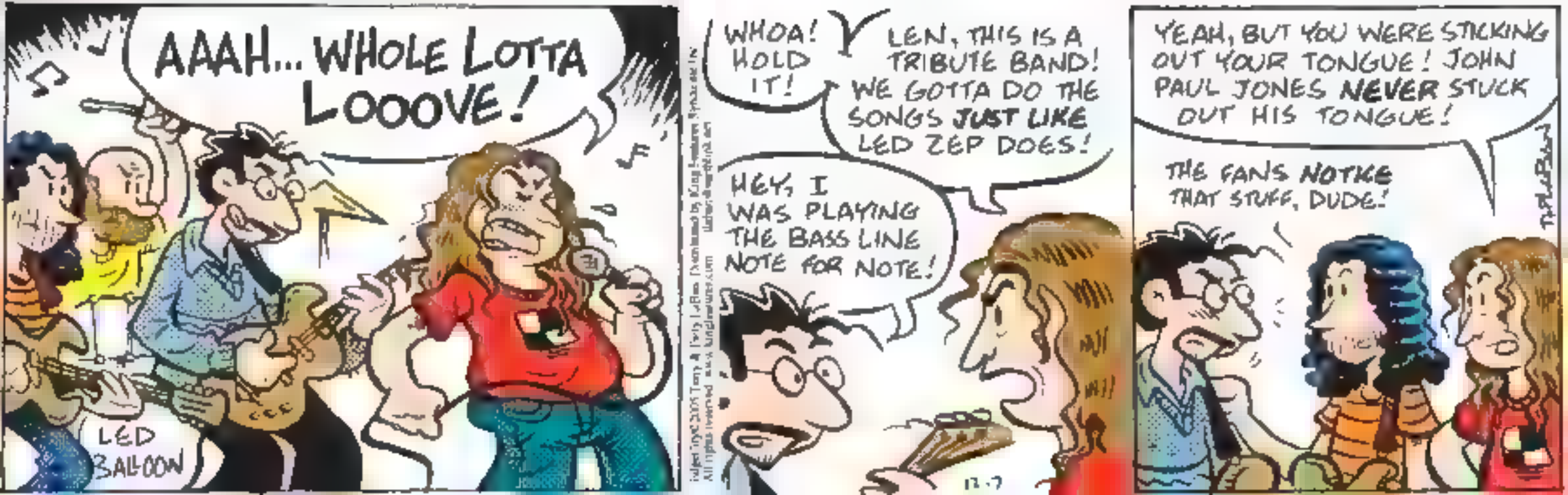
A.

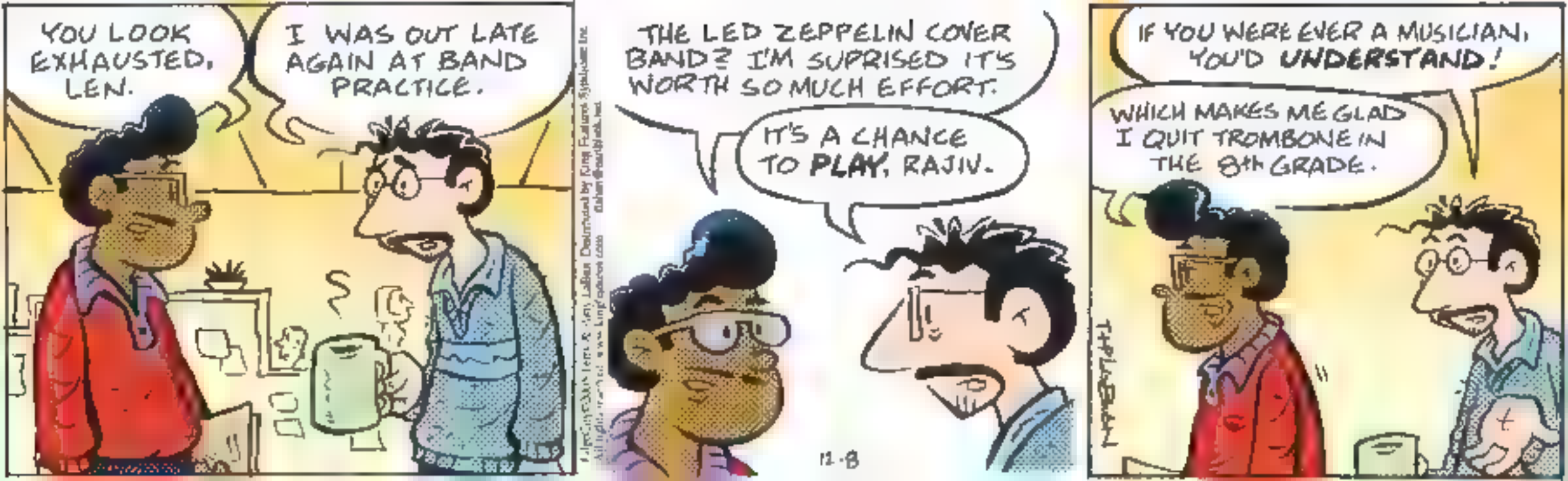


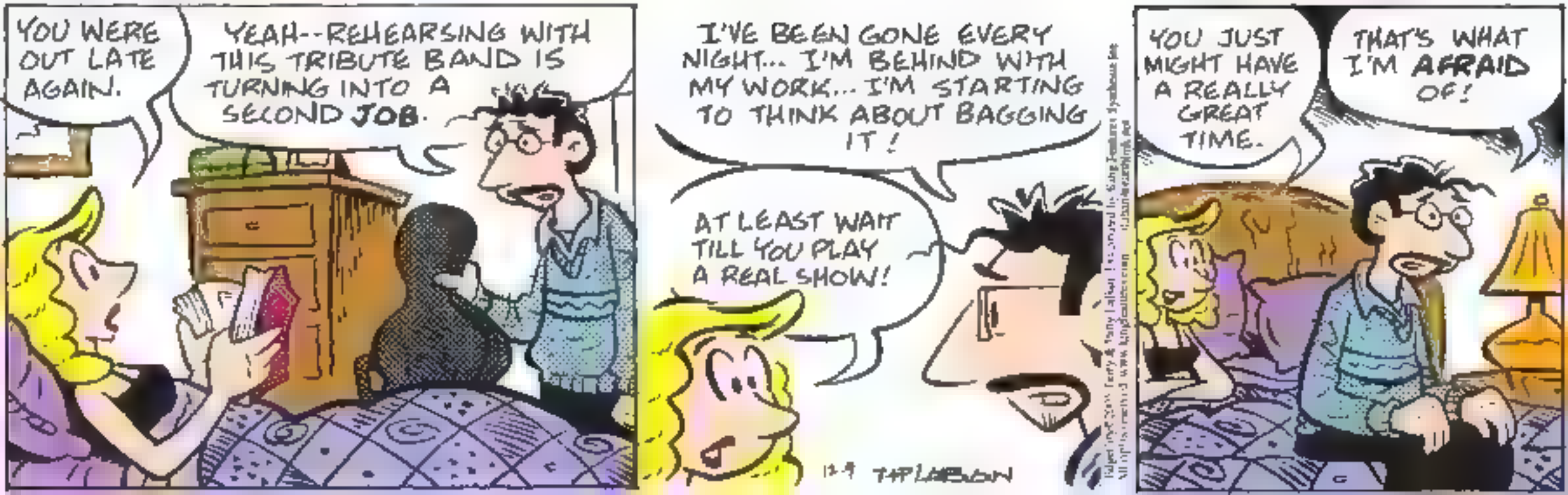
B.

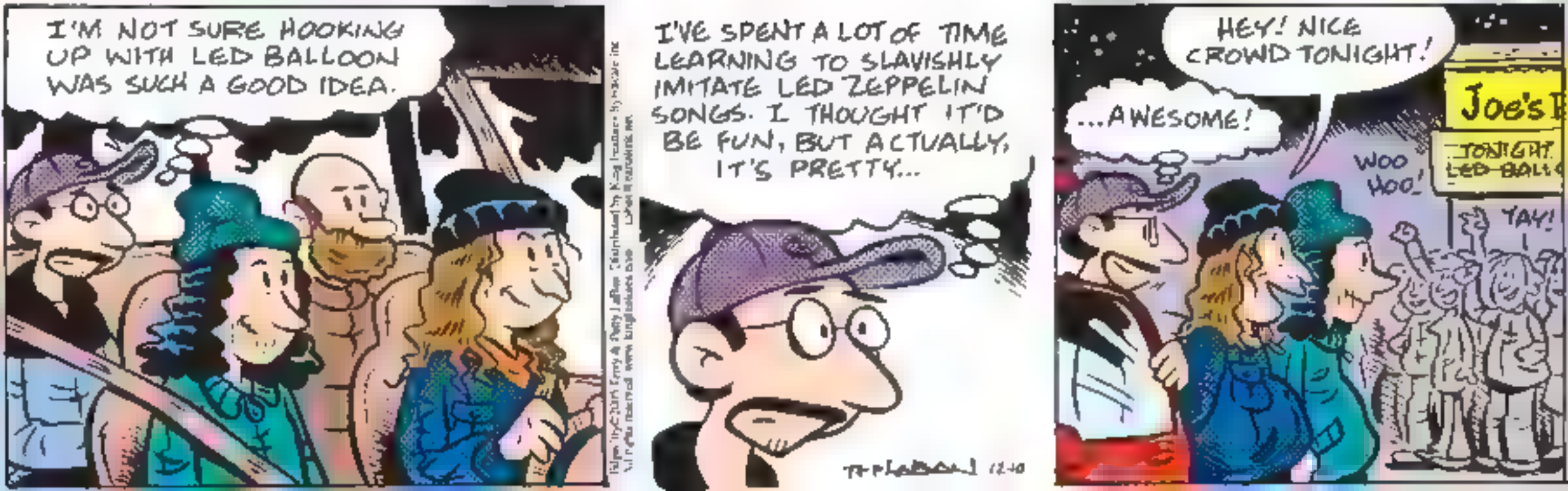
RAJIV, I'VE GOT TO LEAVE FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS AT LUNCH TIME.
A COUPLE OF HOURS? WHY?
I'M GOING TO PLAY BASS IN A LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE BAND. WE'RE PRACTICING TODAY.
A LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE BAND?
12-5
HA HA! THAT'S FUNNY! WHY DO YOU HAVE TO GO REALLY?
OK... CARLY'S SICK AND ABBY WORKS THIS AFTERNOON...


HEY, LEN! GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT!
YEAH--IT WASN'T SO EASY TO GET AWAY FROM WORK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY!
LED BALLOON
I HOPE WE CAN FIND A BETTER TIME TO PRACTICE THAN 1:00 IN THE AFTERNOON!
ME TOO, MAN.
12-6
I HATE HAVING TO GET UP SO EARLY!
THERE'S MORE COFFEE, IF YOU WANT IT.
!


AAAH... WHOLE LOTTA LOOOVE!
LED BALLOON
WHOA! HOLD IT!
LEN, THIS IS A TRIBUTE BAND! WE GOTTA DO THE SONGS JUST LIKE LED ZEP DOES!
HEY, I WAS PLAYING THE BASS LINE NOTE FOR NOTE!
YEAH, BUT YOU WERE STICKING OUT YOUR TONGUE! JOHN PAUL JONES NEVER STUCK OUT HIS TONGUE!
THE FANS NOTICE THAT STUFF, DUDE!

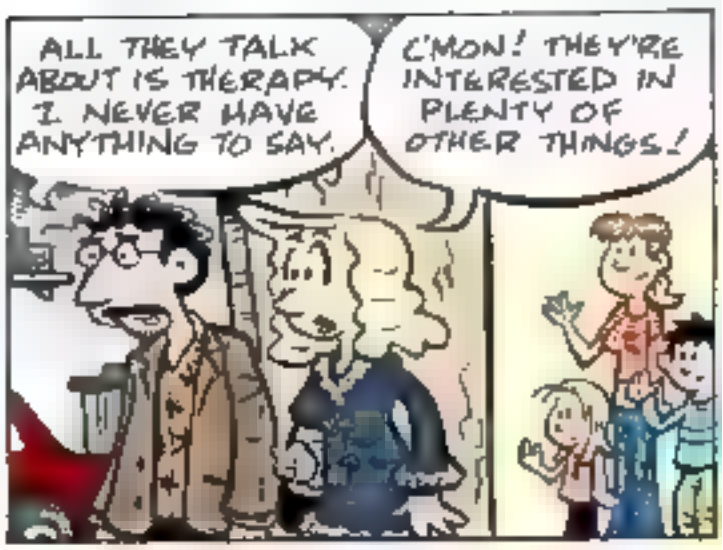

YOU LOOK EXHAUSTED, LEN.
I WAS OUT LATE AGAIN AT BAND PRACTICE.
THE LED ZEPPELIN COVER BAND? I'M SURPRISED IT'S WORTH SO MUCH EFFORT.
IT'S A CHANCE TO PLAY, RAJIV.
12-8
IF YOU WERE EVER A MUSICIAN, YOU'D UNDERSTAND!
WHICH MAKES ME GLAD I QUIT TROMBONE IN THE 8th GRADE.
THE LABRAN

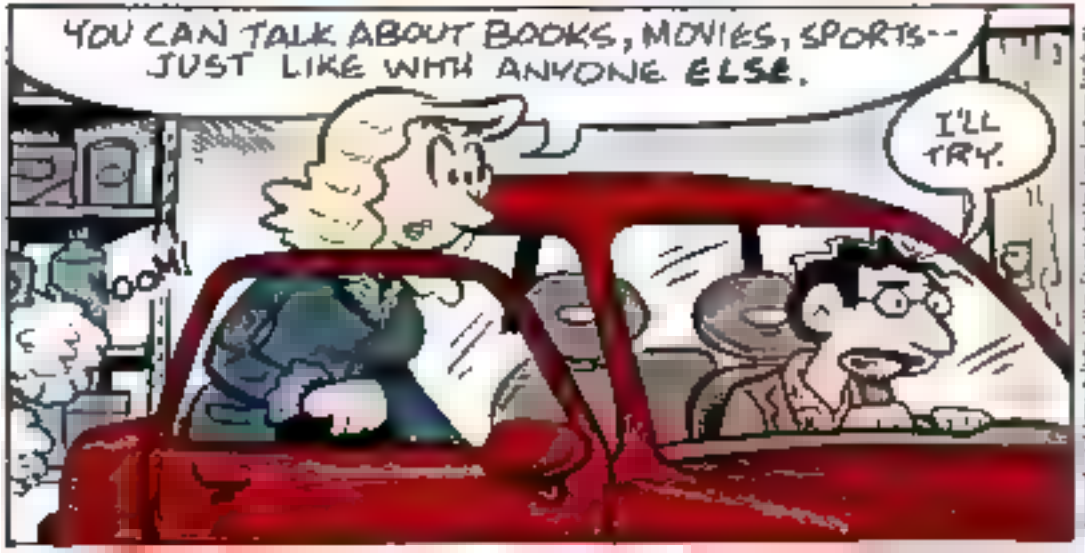

YOU WERE OUT LATE AGAIN.
YEAH--REHEARSING WITH THIS TRIBUTE BAND IS TURNING INTO A SECOND JOB.
I'VE BEEN GONE EVERY NIGHT... I'M BEHIND WITH MY WORK... I'M STARTING TO THINK ABOUT BAGGING IT!
AT LEAST WAIT TILL YOU PLAY A REAL SHOW!
YOU JUST MIGHT HAVE A REALLY GREAT TIME.
THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF!


I'M NOT SURE HOOKING UP WITH LED BALLOON WAS SUCH A GOOD IDEA.
I'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME LEARNING TO SLAVISHLY IMITATE LED ZEPPELIN SONGS. I THOUGHT IT'D BE FUN, BUT ACTUALLY, IT'S PRETTY...
HEY! NICE CROWD TONIGHT!
...AWESOME!
WOO HOO!
YAY!

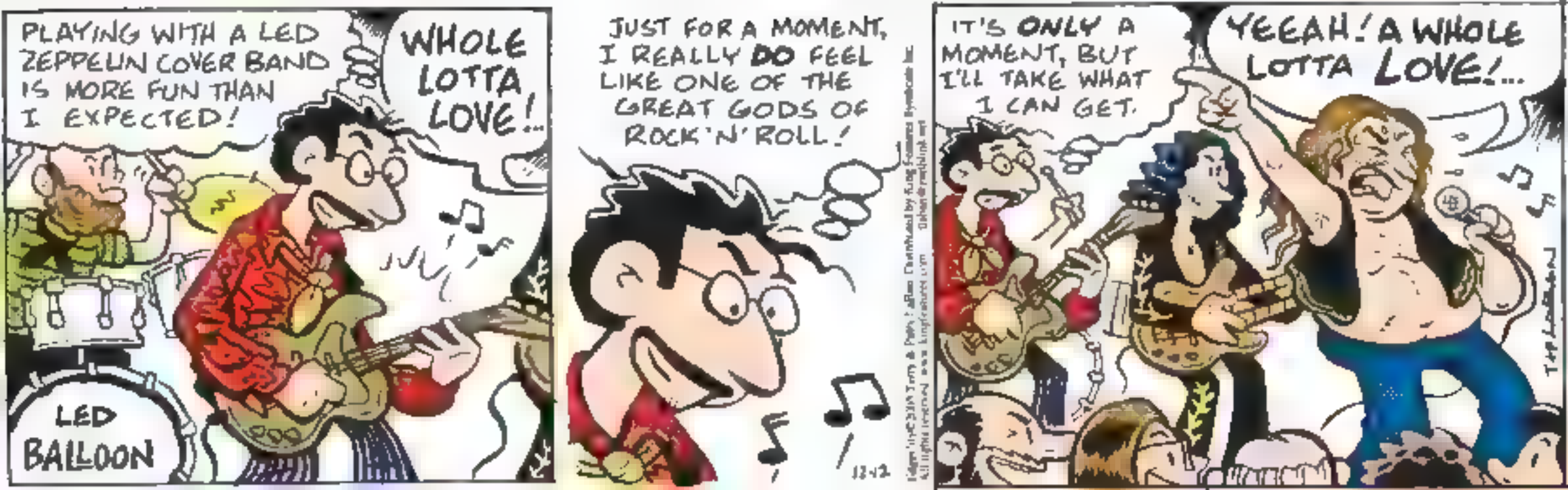
READY TO GO TO MY OFFICE HOLIDAY PARTY?
SIGH! I SUPPOSE.

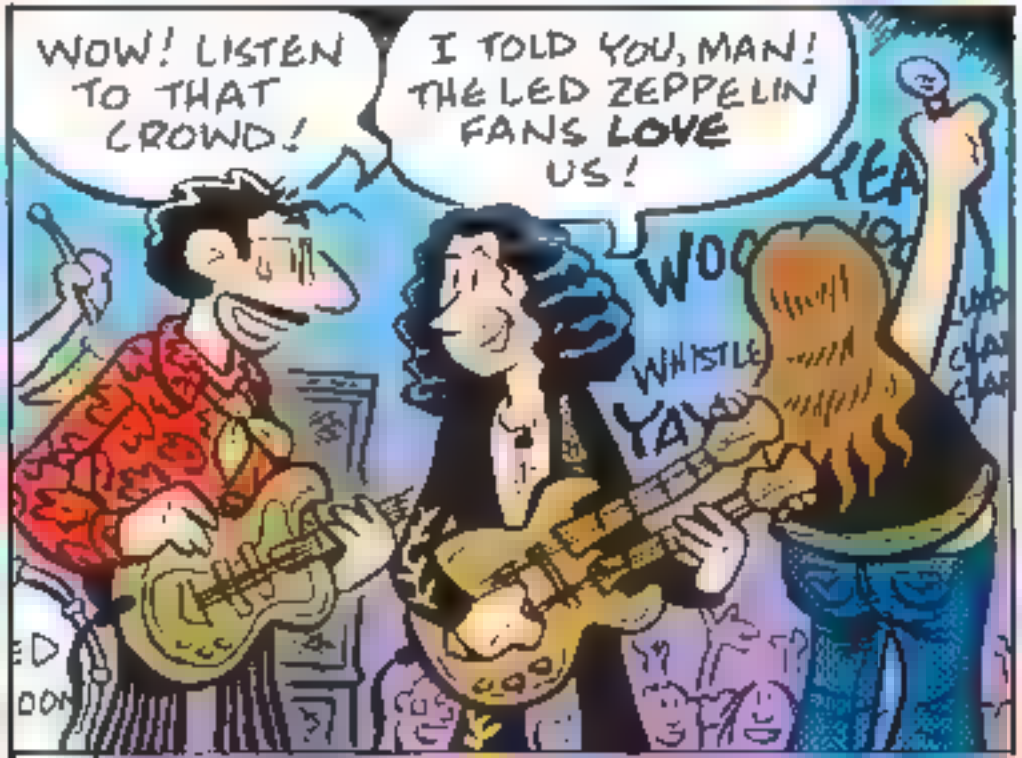
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S JUST HARD TO SPEND AN EVENING WITH A ROOMFUL OF THERAPISTS.


ALL THEY TALK ABOUT IS THERAPY. I NEVER HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY.
C'MON! THEY'RE INTERESTED IN PLENTY OF OTHER THINGS!


YOU CAN TALK ABOUT BOOKS, MOVIES, SPORTS-- JUST LIKE WITH ANYONE ELSE.
I'LL TRY.
VROOM!

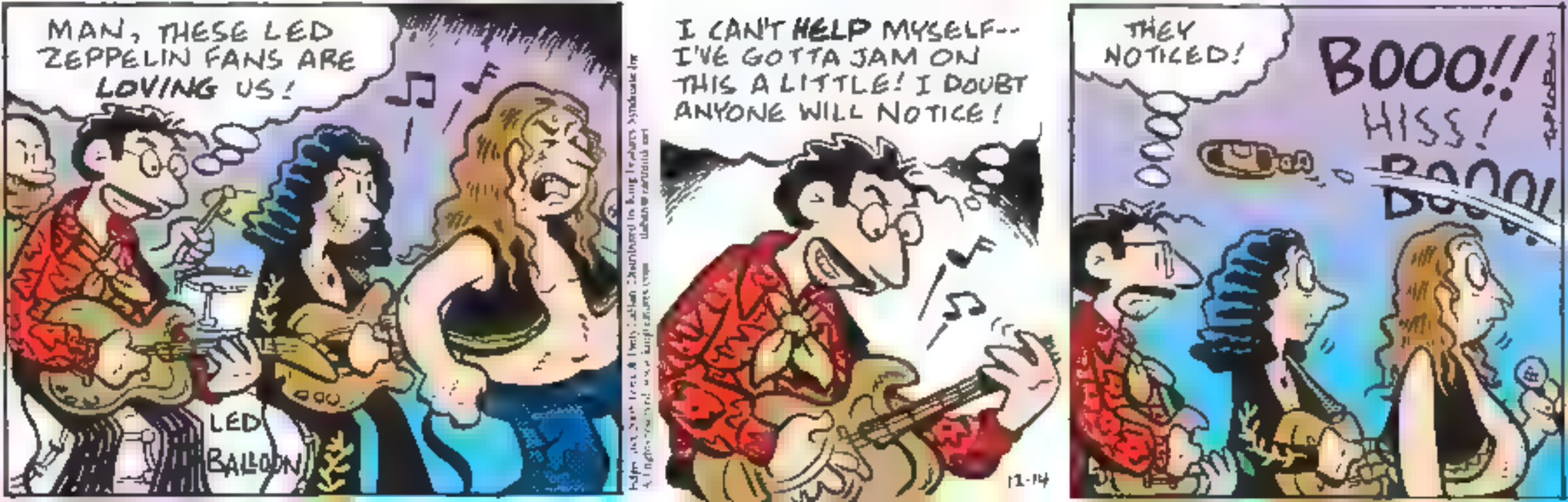
SO... THINK WE'LL MAKE THE PLAY-OFFS THIS YEAR?
NOT UNLESS THEY CAN RECHANNEL WATKINS' PATHOLOGICAL NARCISSISM.
HAPPY HOLIDAY

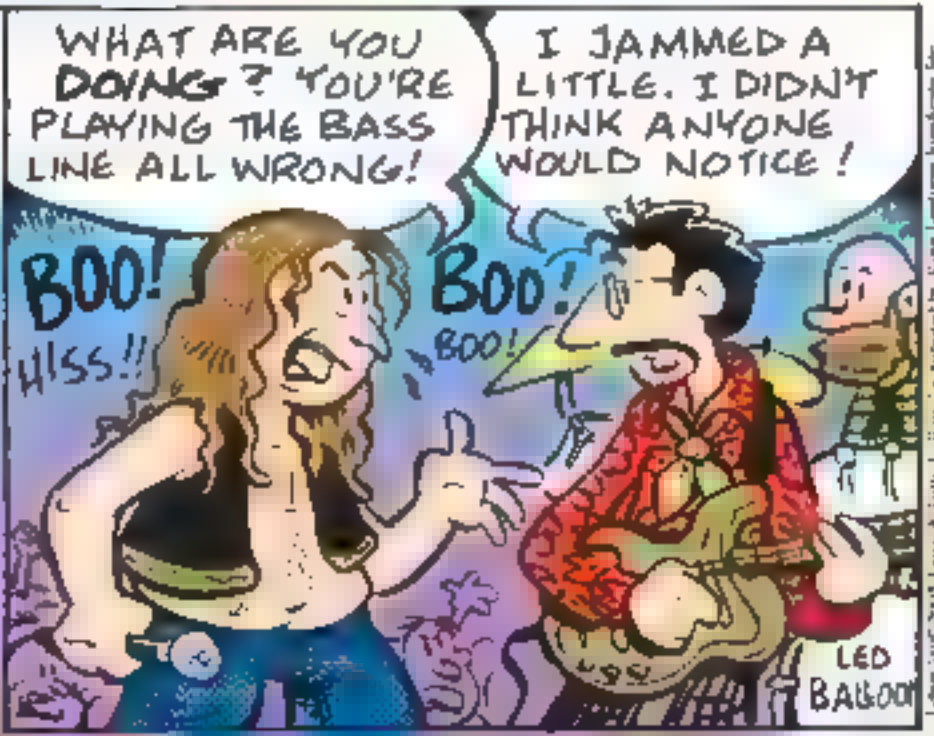

PLAYING WITH A LED ZEPPELIN COVER BAND IS MORE FUN THAN I EXPECTED!
WHOLE LOTTA LOVE!...
LED BALLOON
JUST FOR A MOMENT, I REALLY DO FEEL LIKE ONE OF THE GREAT GODS OF ROCK'N'ROLL!
IT'S ONLY A MOMENT, BUT I'LL TAKE WHAT I CAN GET.
YEEAH! A WHOLE LOTTA LOVE!...


WOW! LISTEN TO THAT CROWD!
I TOLD YOU, MAN! THE LED ZEPPELIN FANS LOVE US!
WOO
WHISTLE
YA

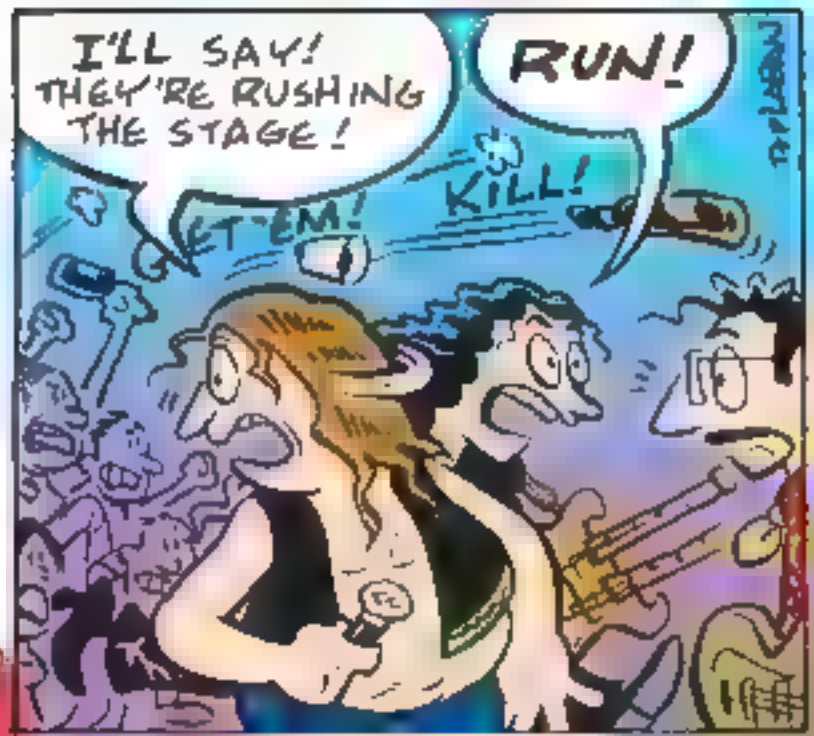
YOU EVER PLAY FOR AN AUDIENCE THIS PUMPED?
SURE! I USED TO HAVE A BAND OF MY OWN.
YEAH!
WHOOP!
OH YES!
WHISTLE!
12-13

THEY USED TO CHEER LIKE THIS?
YEAH-- WHENEVER WE LEFT THE STAGE.
A ONE... A TWO...


MAN, THESE LED ZEPPELIN FANS ARE LOVING US!
LED BALLOON
I CAN'T HELP MYSELF-- I'VE GOTTA JAM ON THIS A LITTLE! I DOUBT ANYONE WILL NOTICE!
12-14
THEY NOTICED!
BOOO!!
HISS!
BOOO!

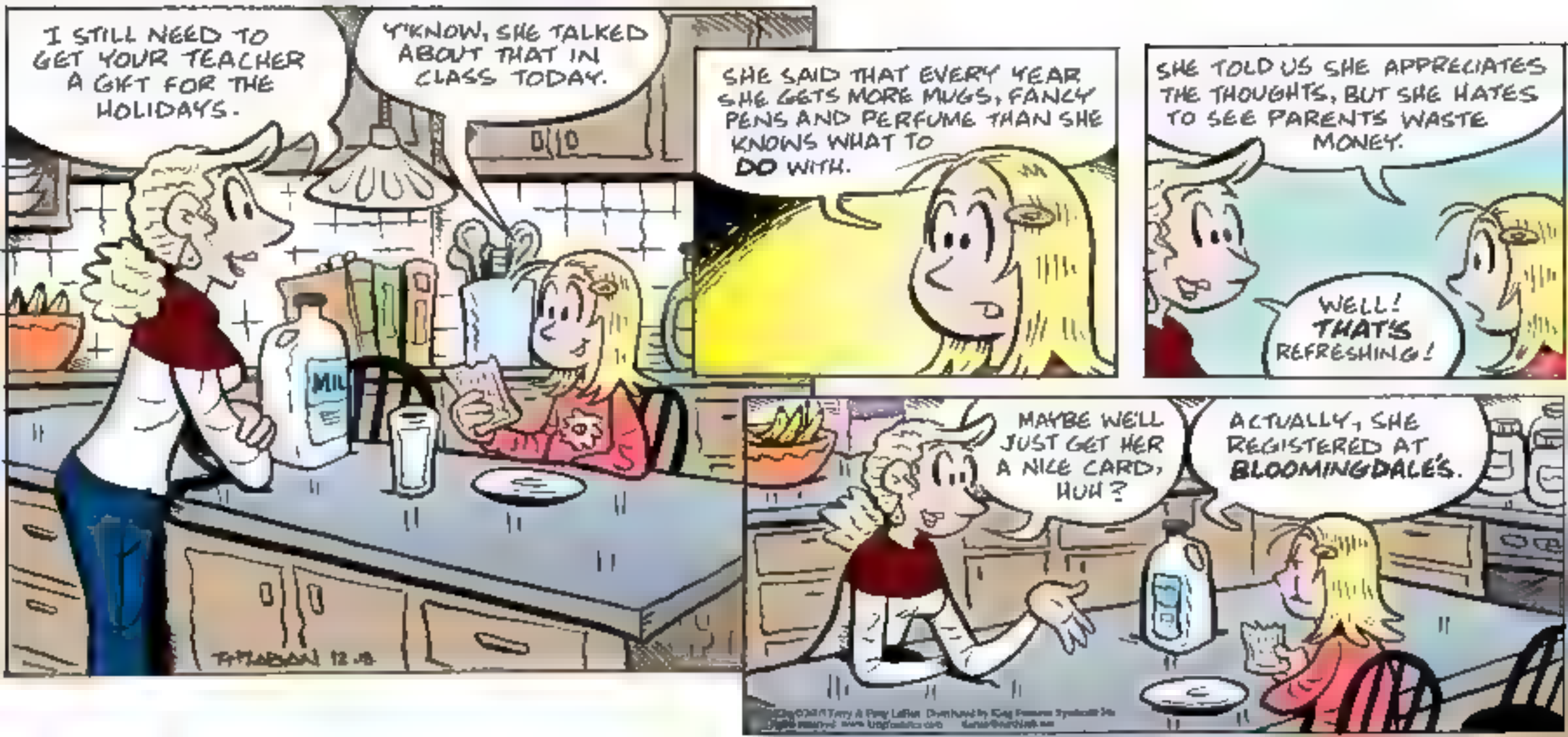

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU'RE PLAYING THE BASS LINE ALL WRONG!
I JAMMED A LITTLE. I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE WOULD NOTICE!
BOO!
HISS!!
BOO!
BOO!
LED BALLOON

LEN, TO THESE FANS, LED ZEPPELIN SONGS ARE SACRED! IF WE DON'T PLAY THEM JUST LIKE LED ZEP DOES, THEY GET FURIOUS!
SORRY! IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
12.15


I'LL SAY! THEY'RE RUSHING THE STAGE!
RUN!
GET 'EM!
KILL!

BOY--I THOUGHT PLAYING IN A LED ZEPPELIN COVER BAND WOULD BE FUN--BUT THOSE FANS ARE CRAZY!
YEAH. THEY GET PRETTY MAD IF WE DON'T PLAY THE SONGS JUST LIKE LED ZEP DOES.
LOOK, YOU GAVE IT A GOOD SHOT, LEN--BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GONNA WORK OUT.
THAT'S OK--I WAS GOING TO QUIT ANYWAY.
12-16
IF I SURVIVE THE NIGHT.
THEY'RE HERE SOME-WHERE!

YOU TRIED PLAYING IN A LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE BAND? I CANT BELIEVE IT!
WELL, I COULDN'T GET YOU GUYS TO SHOW UP FOR PRACTICE ANYMORE.
I FIGURED IT'D BE BETTER TO BE IN A BAND THAT DID A LOT OF GIGS THAN ONE THAT NEVER PLAYED AT ALL!
12-17
I WAS MISTAKEN.
"MOB ATTACKS COVER BAND FOR PLAYING SONGS WRONG" -- HA!


I STILL NEED TO GET YOUR TEACHER A GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAYS.
Y'KNOW, SHE TALKED ABOUT THAT IN CLASS TODAY.
SHE SAID THAT EVERY YEAR SHE GETS MORE MUGS, FANCY PENS AND PERFUME THAN SHE KNOWS WHAT TO DO WITH.
SHE TOLD US SHE APPRECIATES THE THOUGHTS, BUT SHE HATES TO SEE PARENTS WASTE MONEY.
WELL! THAT'S REFRESHING!
MAYBE WE'LL JUST GET HER A NICE CARD, HUH?
ACTUALLY, SHE REGISTERED AT BLOOMINGDALE'S.

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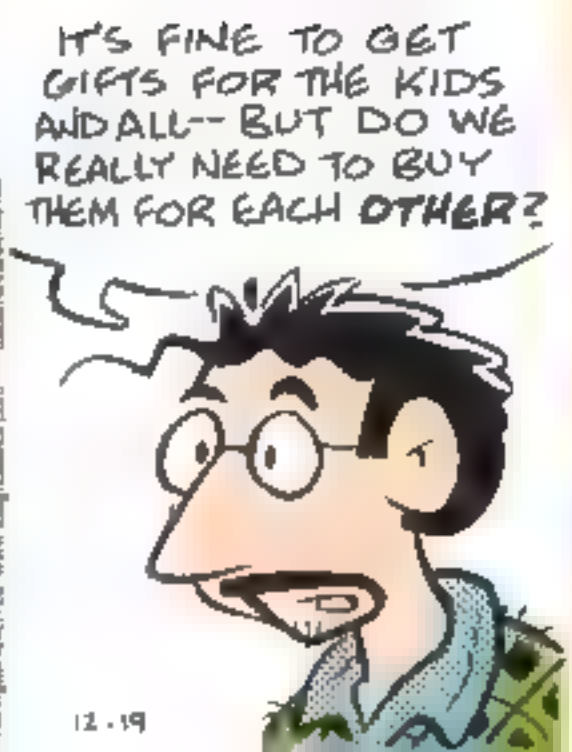
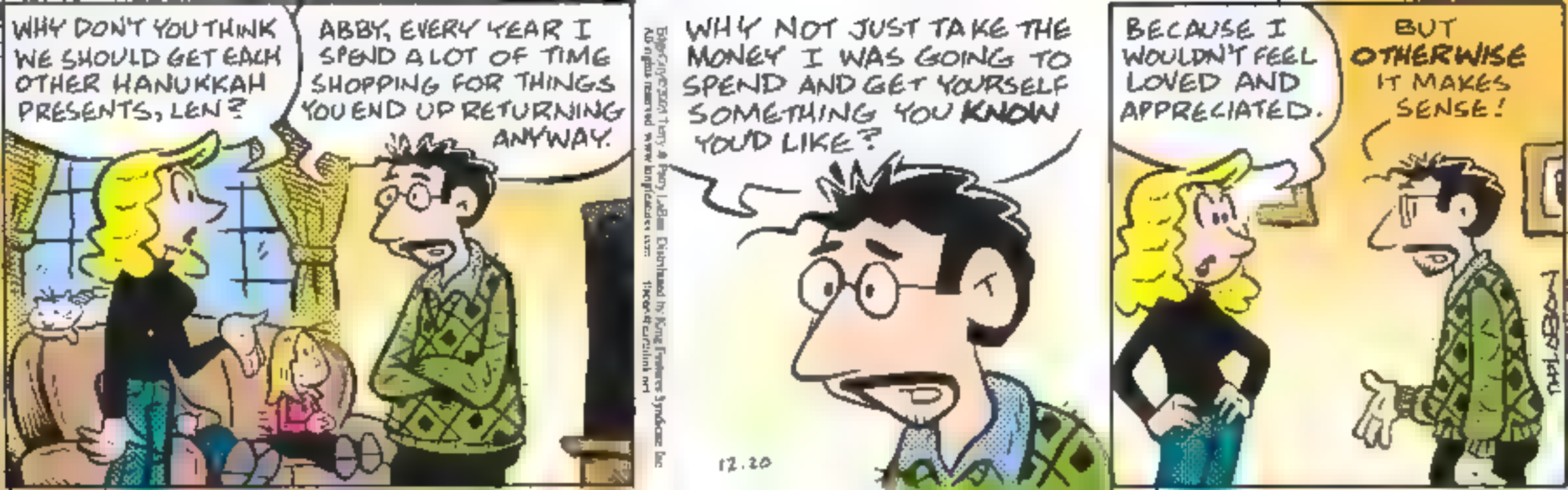
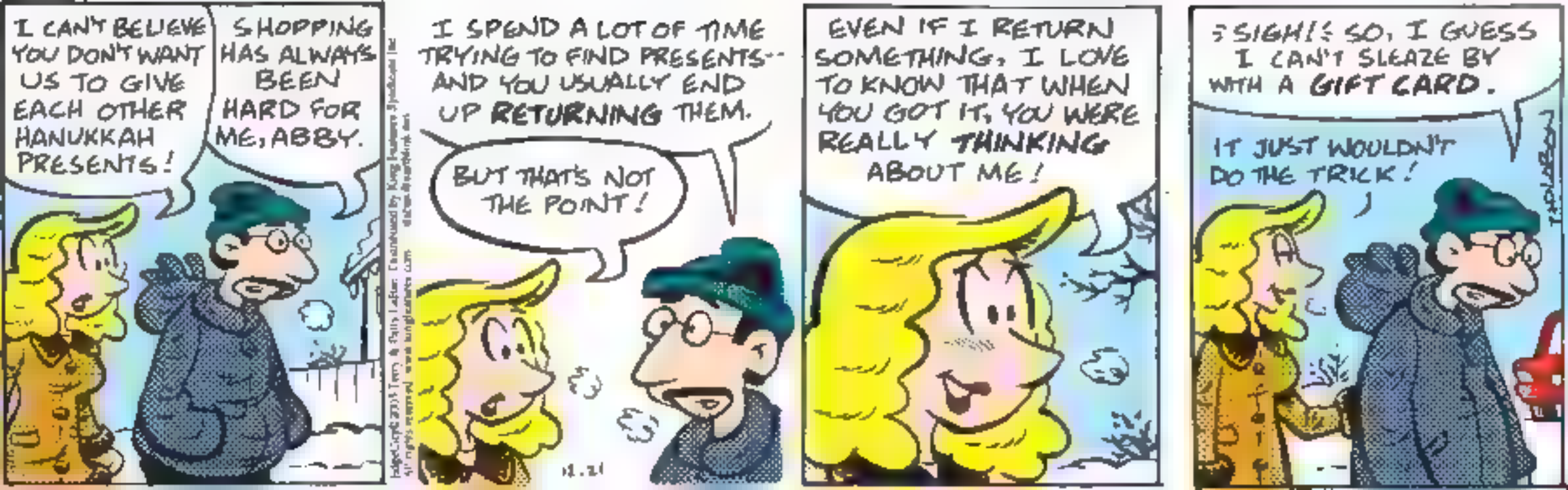
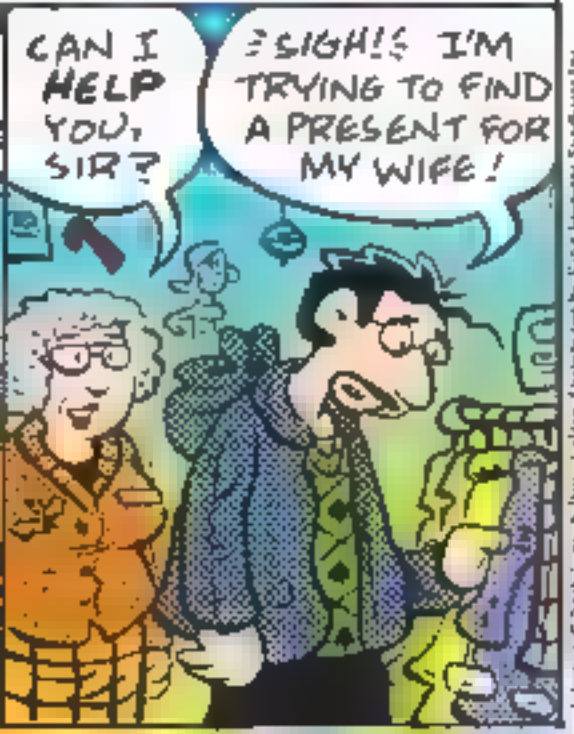
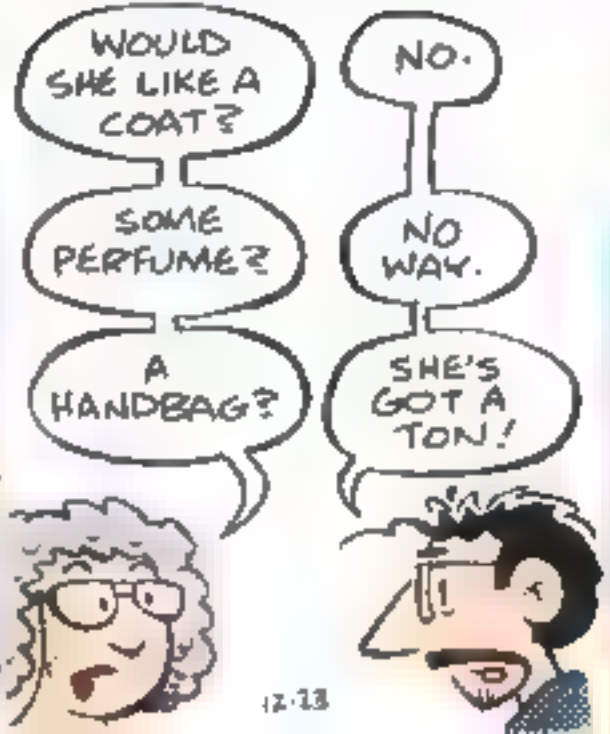



WHY DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD GET EACH OTHER HANUKKAH PRESENTS, LEN?
ABBY, EVERY YEAR I SPEND A LOT OF TIME SHOPPING FOR THINGS YOU END UP RETURNING ANYWAY.
WHY NOT JUST TAKE THE MONEY I WAS GOING TO SPEND AND GET YOURSELF SOMETHING YOU KNOW YOU'D LIKE?
12.20
BECAUSE I WOULDN'T FEEL LOVED AND APPRECIATED.
BUT OTHERWISE IT MAKES SENSE!


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DON'T WANT US TO GIVE EACH OTHER HANUKKAH PRESENTS!
SHOPPING HAS ALWAYS BEEN HARD FOR ME, ABBY.
I SPEND A LOT OF TIME TRYING TO FIND PRESENTS-- AND YOU USUALLY END UP RETURNING THEM.
BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
EVEN IF I RETURN SOMETHING, I LOVE TO KNOW THAT WHEN YOU GOT IT, YOU WERE REALLY THINKING ABOUT ME!
SIGH! SO, I GUESS I CAN'T SLEAZE BY WITH A GIFT CARD.
IT JUST WOULDN'T DO THE TRICK!

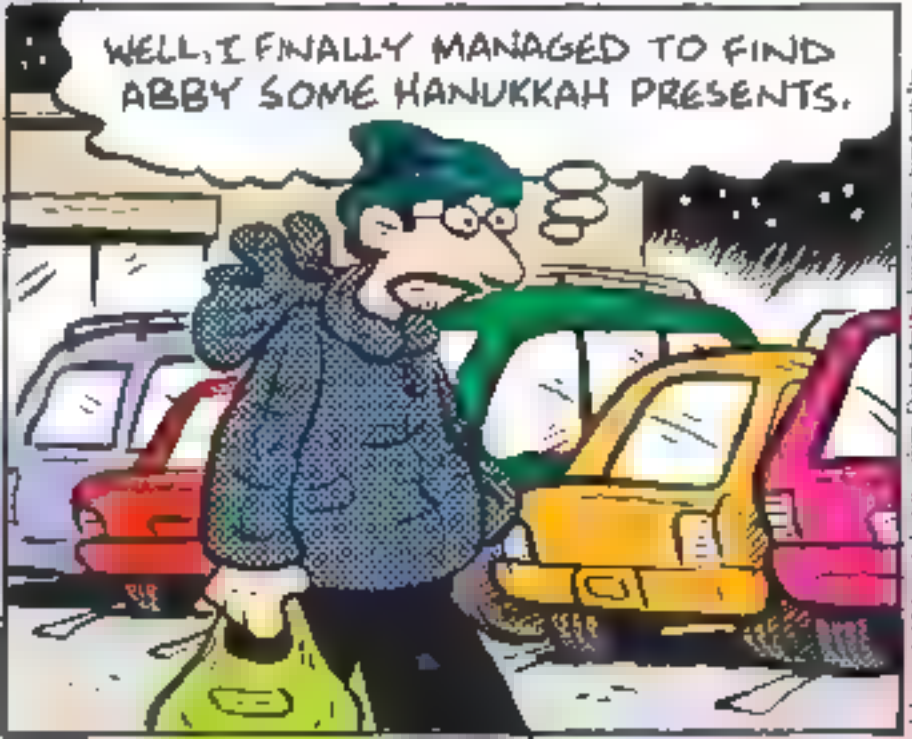
I ASKED ABBY IF WE REALLY NEEDED TO GIVE EACH OTHER HANUKKAH PRESENTS THIS YEAR.
WHY WOULDN'T YOU?
BECAUSE IT'S A WASTE OF ENERGY TO SHOP FOR SOMETHING SHE'LL RETURN ANYWAY! IF SHE WANTS SOMETHING, WHY DOESN'T SHE JUST GO GET IT?
12-22
SOMETIMES YOU'RE JUST SUCH A GUY!
SO? IS THAT BAD?


CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?
SIGH! I'M TRYING TO FIND A PRESENT FOR MY WIFE!


WOULD SHE LIKE A COAT?
NO.
SOME PERFUME?
NO WAY.
A HANDBAG?
SHE'S GOT A TON!
12-23

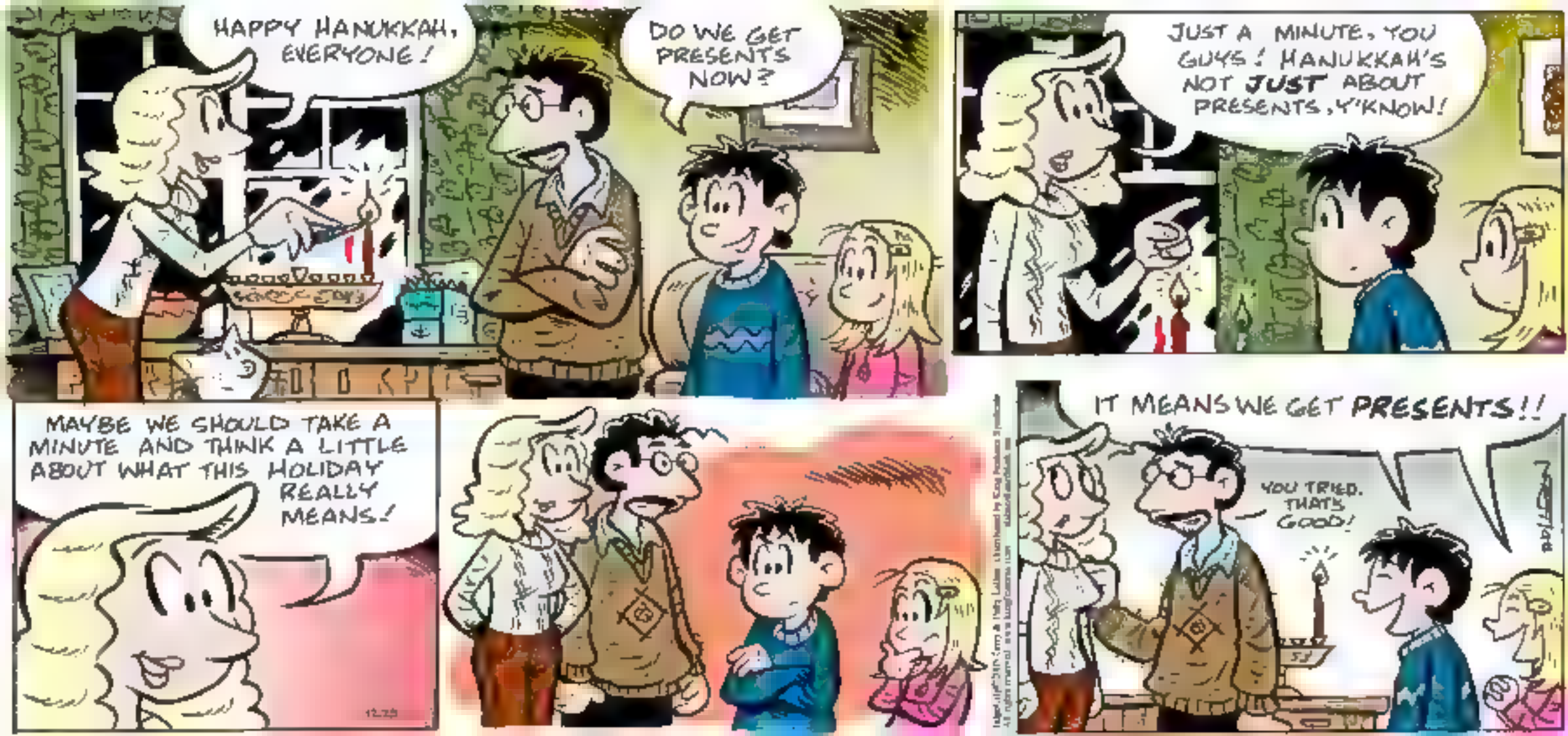
WELL, WHAT ABOUT JUST GETTING HER A GIFT CARD? HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THAT?

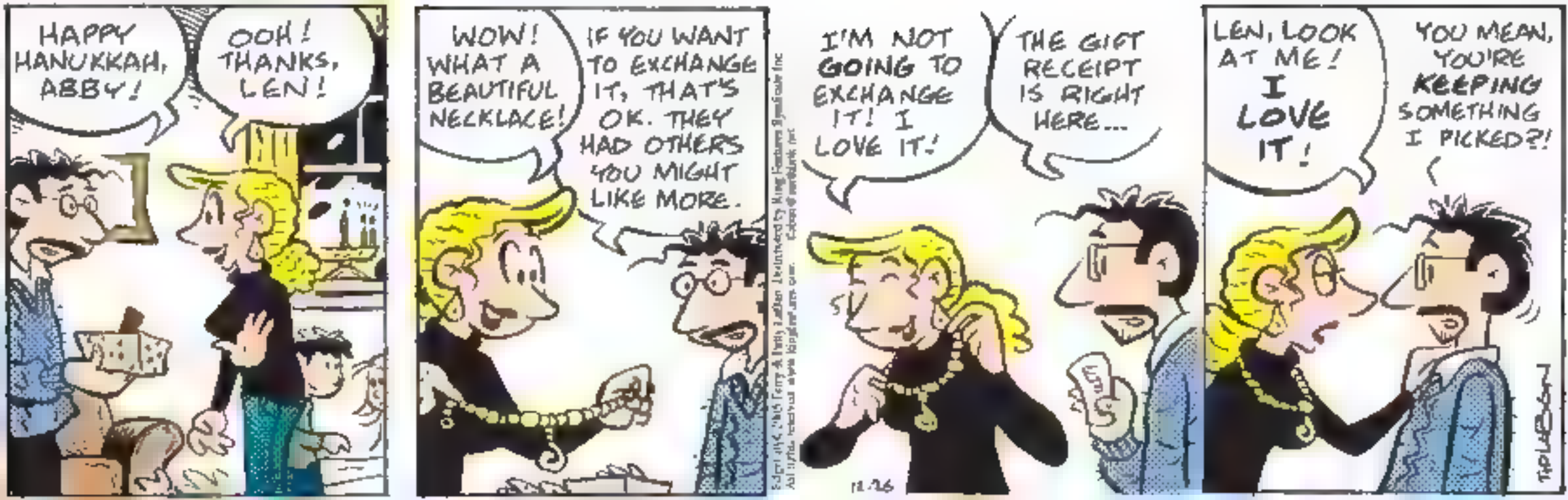
IF SHE'D BE HAPPY WITH A GIFT CARD, D'YOU THINK I'D BE HERE AT 9:30 PM?!
5 MINUTES TILL BREAK...

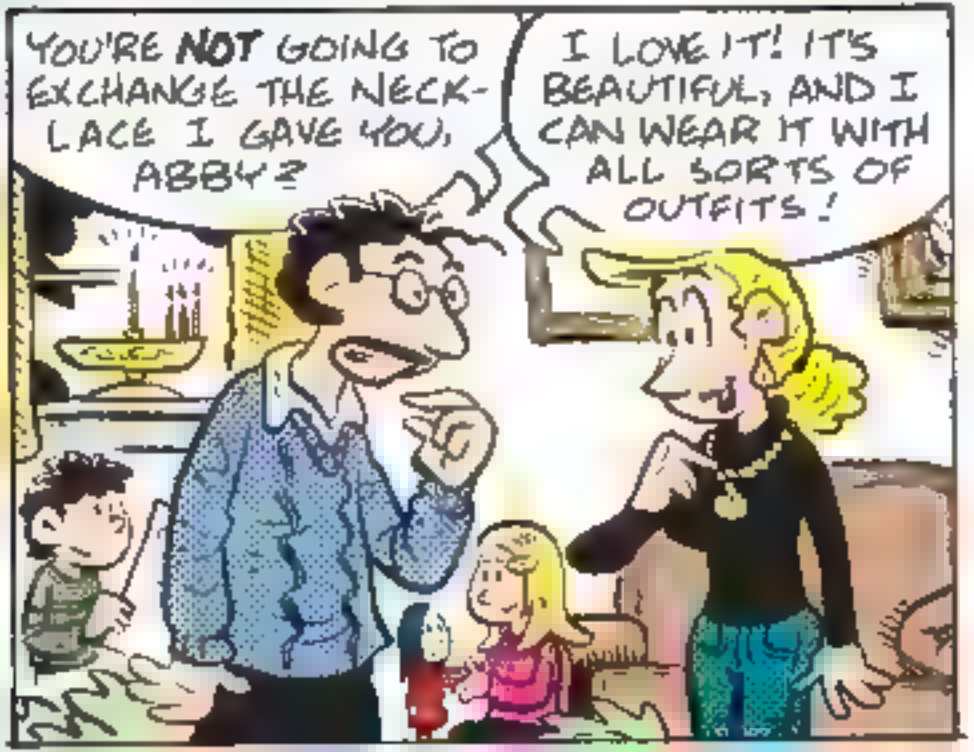

WELL, I FINALLY MANAGED TO FIND ABBY SOME HANUKKAH PRESENTS.

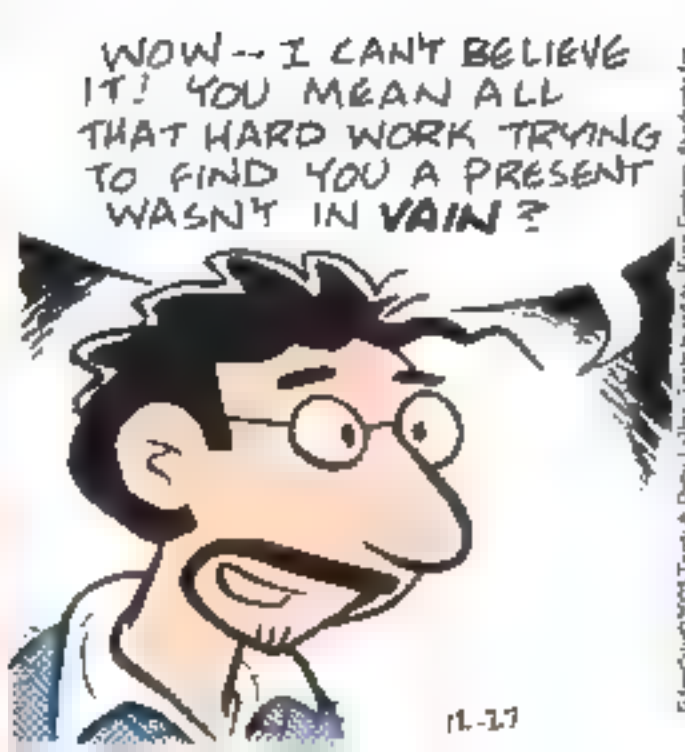
IT ONLY TOOK 3 SEPARATE SHOPPING TRIPS TO 3 DIFFERENT MALLS!

SIGH!
WHOEVER SAID IT WAS BETTER TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE NEVER HAD TO BUY GIFTS FOR MY WIFE!
BEEP!
PLUGBON


HAPPY HANUKKAH, EVERYONE!
DO WE GET PRESENTS NOW?
JUST A MINUTE, YOU GUYS! HANUKKAH'S NOT JUST ABOUT PRESENTS, Y'KNOW!
MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE A MINUTE AND THINK A LITTLE ABOUT WHAT THIS HOLIDAY REALLY MEANS!
IT MEANS WE GET PRESENTS!!
YOU TRIED. THAT'S GOOD!


HAPPY HANUKKAH, ABBY!
OOH! THANKS, LEN!
WOW! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NECKLACE!
IF YOU WANT TO EXCHANGE IT, THAT'S OK. THEY HAD OTHERS YOU MIGHT LIKE MORE.
I'M NOT GOING TO EXCHANGE IT! I LOVE IT!
THE GIFT RECEIPT IS RIGHT HERE...
LEN, LOOK AT ME! I LOVE IT!
YOU MEAN, YOU'RE KEEPING SOMETHING I PICKED?!





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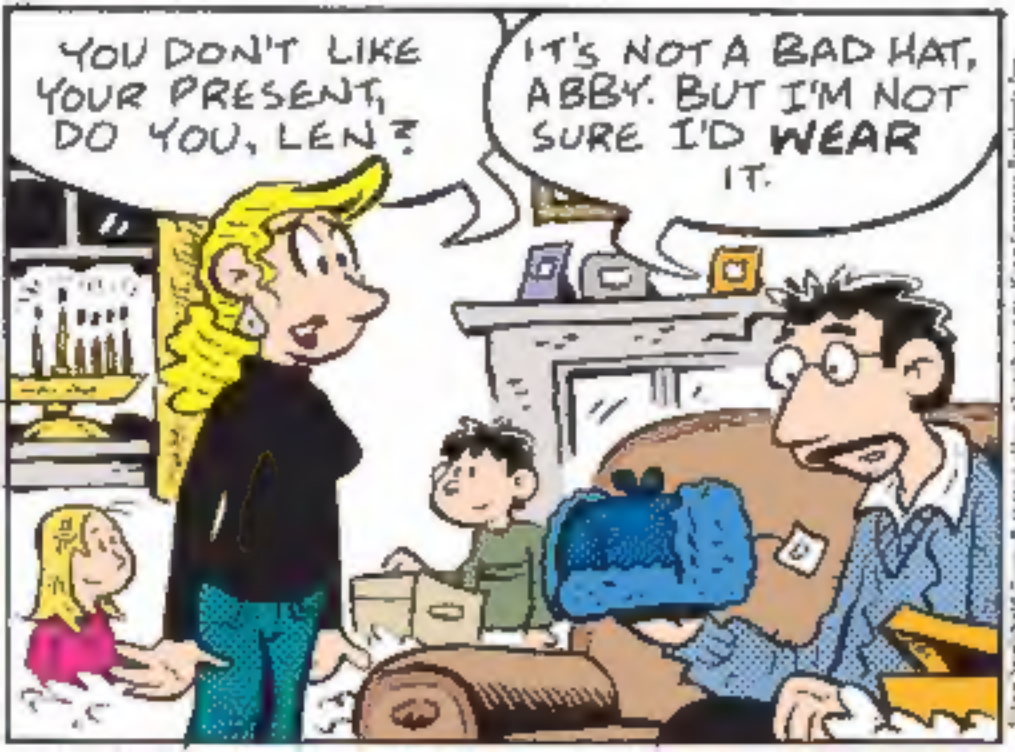
HAPPY HANUKKAH, LEN. I HOPE YOU LIKE MY PRESENT AS MUCH AS I LIKED YOURS!
I'M SURE I WILL, ABBY.
WHAT'S THIS? THE KIND OF HAT ELMER FUDD WEARS?
I SAW THEM ALL OVER THE PLACE THIS YEAR.
IT'S SHEARLING, SO IT'LL BE REALLY WARM.
GOSH. THANKS, HONEY!
YOU HATE IT, DON'T YOU?
AW, C'MON! THAT'S A LITTLE STRONG!



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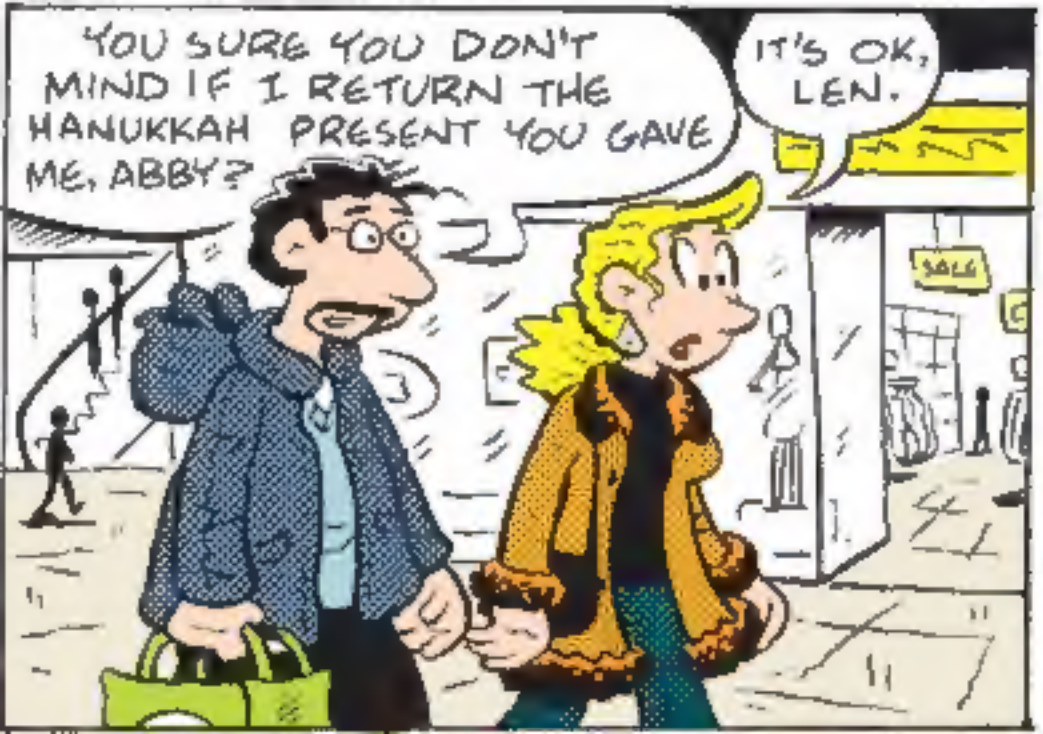
I REALLY THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE THAT HAT, LEN.
IT'S NICE, ABBY. BUT IT'S JUST NOT MY STYLE.
ARE YOU DISAPPOINTED?
NO... WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS TO HAVE A GIFT YOU LIKE!
12-30
WELL, SOMETHING'S BOTHERING YOU! WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW YOU AT ALL, DO I?
C'MON, HONEY! YOU DO SO!
TPLABON



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